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Cape Trafalgar and the Coast of Europe from the Barbary Shore

SKETCHES

IN

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

BY

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"A WINTER IN LAPLAND," &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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CONTENTS

OF

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Set out from Tangier.—Moorish Peasant-Women.—Encamp for the Night.—Arab Douar.—Kouskousu.—Ain Dalia.—Arab Females.—Continuation of the Journey.—Extensive Plain.—Maharhar River.—Old Burial-Ground and Sepulchre.—Ghabat Akloo.—Stone Tumuli.—Cross the Mountain.—Encamp at an Arab Douar.—Evening Devotions.—Bad Weather.—Bedouin Arabs.—Illness of Hamet Sharkee.—Night Concert.—Attack of the Cattle of the Douar by the Mountaineers.—Hamet Sharkee sent back to Tangier.—Badness of the Road.—Ascend the Hills.—Ancient Remains.—Table-land of Garbia.—Abundance of Game.—Barbary Mouse.—River Ayache.—Sanctuary of Mohamed Ben Ali.—Morocco Saints.—Encamp at the Douar of Mazora . . . . Page 1

CHAPTER II.

Ancient Pillar called L'Uted.—Description of the Remains.—Compared with the Celtic Monuments in our own Country.—Its great Antiquity.—Singular Traditions.—Badness of the Weather.—Observations of the Arabs.—Night-Watch.—Douar of Mazora.—Arab Tents.—Dress of the Women.—Necklaces purchased.—Description of

them.—Journey continued.—Nature of the Country.—Myrtle Plains.—Sahel.—Moorish Village.—Encamp for the Night.—Sidi Absalom, the Scheik.—Wild Boars.—Talib.—Set out for Larache.—Extensive View.—Saint of Wazein.—Battle of Alkassar, in 1578.—Cross the Luccos.—Arrival at Larache 36

CHAPTER III.

Description of the Town.—Its ruinous State.—Population.—Plentiful Supply of Kouskousu.—Way in which it is prepared and dressed.—How it is eaten by the Moors.—Quantity devoured by them.—Visit to the Governor.—Alcassaba.—Excursion into the Country.—Rock-pigeons.—Spot resorted to by Muley Soliman.—Gardens outside the Walls.—Profusion of Oranges.—Comfortless State of our Habitation.—Purchases made.—Silk and other Manufactures of Fez.—View from the Windows.—Harbour.—Distrust of the Moors 70

CHAPTER IV.

Departure from Larache.—Passage of the Luccos.—Encamp in the Afternoon.—Shooting.—Inattention of the Scheik.—Anger of the Alkaid in consequence.—Start early in the Morning.—Reach the Sea-shore.—Mussulman Gravity.—Features of the Coast.—Sanctuary.—The Nautilus.—Leave the Coast.—Commencement of bad Weather.—Arrive at Arzilla.—Received into the house of a Jew.—Visit from the Saint of Arzilla.—Tea-drinking.—Interchange of Presents.—Inhabitants.—Present of Black Loaves from the Saint.—Tea-pot carried off by the holy Man.—Leave Arzilla.—Waad el Rife River.—Garbia.—Difficulties of crossing the Rivers.—Encamp on the Banks of the Mechra el Hachef.—Altercation.—Enabled to cross the River the following Morning.—Parties on the Road.—Arrival at Tangier 95

CHAPTER V.

Commencement of the Winter Season.—Scarcity of Woodcocks.—Lakes near the western Coast.—The Flamingo.—Singular Fineness of the Weather.—Arrival of Steam-vessels from Gibraltar —Grand Salute from the Batteries.—Cause of it.—Exultation of the Inhabitants.—The Moors.—Their Features, Figure, and Cast of Countenance.—Dignity of Manner.—Costume.—Complexion.—Character of the Race.—Plurality of Wives.—Facilities of Divorce.—Habit of swearing by the Harem.—Bid adieu to Barbary . 127

CHAPTER VI.

Arrival at Gibraltar.—General Sketch of the History of the Fortress.—First Invasion of the Arabs.—Taken by the Spaniards in the Beginning of the fourteenth Century.—Retaken by the Mahometans in 1333.—Fell into the Hands of the King of Granada in 1410.—Surrendered to the Spaniards in 1442.—Taken by Sir George Rooke in 1704.—Ineffectual Attempts of the Spaniards to retake it.—Siege of 1726.—Last and memorable Siege of Gibraltar in 1779 146

CHAPTER VII.

Start from Gibraltar.—Guadiaro.—Gaucin.—View.—Andalusian Scenery.—The Palm Tree.—Crosses.—Robbers.—Arrival at Ronda.—Lodgings.—Town described.—Bridge.—Alameda.—Inhabitants.—Cueva del Gatto.—Continuation of Journey.—Ronda Mountains.—Burgos.—Mountain Venta.—Malaga.—Climate.—Velez Malaga.—Night Quarters.—Alhama.—Sierra Nevada.—Evening Scene.—Approach to Granada 166

CHAPTER VIII.

Granada described.—Situation of the City.—The Alhambra.—Xeneralife.—Palace of Charles V.—Dispersion of the

Nuns during the Constitution.—Posada del Sol.—Santa Fé.—Siege of Granada.—Visit to the Soto di Roma.—The Albayzin.—The Alpujarras.—Moriscoes.—Journey resumed.—Alcala.—A Traveller's Breakfast.—Rio del Castro.—Spanish Olla.—Arrival at Cordova 220

CHAPTER IX.

Cordova.—The great Mosque.—Palace of Zehra.—Condition of Spain under the Moors.—Irregularity of Passport.—Inhabitants of Cordova.—Hermitage.—Departure from Cordova.—Andujar.—Portuguese Refugees.—Baylen.—Diligence described.—Narrow Escape.—Escort.—Amicable Arrangement.—Captain Rolando.—Mode of Proceeding.—La Carolina.—Sierra Morena.—Scene of Don Quixote's Exploits.—Magnificent Road.—Passage of the Sierra Morena, by the French Army, in 1810.—Venta de Cardenas.—Valdepeñas.—Wine.—La Mancha.—Puerto Lapiche.—Ocaña.—Aranjuez.—Arrival at Madrid . . 251

CHAPTER X.

Madrid.—The Escurial.—Coldness of the Weather.—Departure for Madrid.—Difficult Passage of the Guadarrama Mountains.—Old Castile.—Night Halt at Lerma.—Coterie described.—Method of doing Business at Madrid.—The Condessa and her Companion.—Arrangement for the Night.—Burgos.—Enter Biscay.—Vitoria.—Tolosa.—Biscayan Peasants.—Pyrenees.—Irun.—Bayonne.—The Landes.—Bourdeaux.—Party of Nuns.—Poictiers.—Tours.—Paris.—Calais.—Arrival in England 293

NOTES 335

SKETCHES

IN

SPAIN AND AFRICA.

CHAPTER I.

Set out from Tangier.—Moorish Peasant-Women.—Encamp for the Night.—Arab Douar.—Kouskousu.—Ain Dalia.—Arab Females.—Continuation of the Journey.—Extensive Plain.—Maharhar River.—Old Burial-Ground and Sepulchre.—Ghabat Akloo.—Stone Tumuli.—Cross the Mountain.—Encamp at an Arab Douar.—Evening Devotions.—Bad Weather.—Bedouin Arabs.—Illness of Hamet Sharkee.—Night Concert.—Attack of the Cattle of the Douar by the Mountaineers.—Hamet Sharkee sent back to Tangier.—Badness of the Road.—Ascend the Hills.—Ancient Remains.—Table-land of Garbia.—Abundance of Game.—Barbary Mouse.—River Ayache.—Sanctuary of Mohamed Ben Ali.—Morocco Saints.—Encamp at the Douar of Mazora.

IT was a most delightful day when our cavalcade got out of the dirty town of Tangier, and snuffed up the fresh country air. The weather was indeed so unusually fine and dry as to excite the surprise of all, and we heartily prayed for a continuance of it until our return. Our

party was rather numerous, consisting of the alkaid, or officer, who was to accompany us as a guard, myself, four Moors, being the muleteers, to whom the animals belonged, and a Portuguese, whom I had got from Gibraltar as an interpreter and to help. I had, besides, pressed into my service a respectable Moor, who spoke English perfectly well—better, indeed, than any Moor I ever met with, it rarely happening that any one of that nation is to be found in Morocco who knows a word of the language. His name was Hamet Sharkee, well known to the English at Tangier, having formerly lived for several years in the house of the consul-general: he had been also an old soldier, and had several times distinguished himself in the field along with the sultan, where he had been wounded. From his knowledge of the language, I foresaw he would be of great assistance to me in obtaining any information on my journey. The poor fellow, however, had been dreadfully ill for some time, and was extremely weak and feeble; but the weather being so fine, he thought the air would be of service to him.

As we passed through the cultivated plains of Tangier and the neighbouring villages, I observed the barley already springing up, while the open grassy meadows were scented with the perfume of the narcissus. We met numbers of

country women on their road to Tangier, who covered themselves on our approach. However cleanly the Moors may be in their persons, the necessary consequence of the frequent ablutions imposed upon them by their religion, it is not the case with regard to their raiment, which in general is filthy enough among the lower classes: the hayk worn by both sexes, from its original colour being white, very soon assumes the appearance of a dirty blanket, and the women in consequence are any thing but inviting in their exterior. The hats that the female peasantry wear are made of the palmeta leaf plaited, and have a very singular appearance from their shape and size, having enormous wide brims, which turn up at the edges, and are bordered with blue worsted, worked in along with the plait: the crown, which is low, is also ornamented usually with circles of coloured worsted and dyed plait. These hats are well adapted to the climate, being both cool and light, and will keep off rain as well as sun. The finer sort are made of the palmeta bleached and neatly plaited, and almost approach to the European straw manufacture. On our road we passed some large matamores, which were guarded by a soldier.

There were large flocks of the golden and common plover on each side of us as we passed; and as I had brought my guns with me, with the intention of shooting during the journey, I killed

several, as also some partridges. Our direction was S.W. About four in the afternoon we lost sight of the cultivated country, and got among the hills; and before five we had reached Ain Dalia, the spot where the alkaid proposed remaining for the night. We accordingly unloaded the mules, and in about half an hour had got the tents up, the baggage under shelter, the mules picketed, a fire lighted, and began to think of preparing our supper, so good an appetite does this wild kind of travelling create. The place where we had pitched our tents was close to a douar, or encampment of Arabs, consisting of about twelve tents, in the midst of which was the hut of the scheik, who, upon inquiry, we found was abroad in the plains, settling a dispute which had arisen between his own people and those of another douar, and in which an Arab had been killed. These quarrels frequently take place when the season for sowing the grain commences, and originate in the respective parties contending for the choice of land. Our encampment, which was high and dry, on a small plateau of elevated ground, covered with palm-bushes and different kinds of bulbous plants, commanded a fine view of the Straits, Cape Malabat, and Tangier Bay, as well as the cultivated plains we had crossed, with the dark wild extent of Jibbel Habib opposite to us, and in the distance the high mass of Beni Hassan in

the Lower Atlas. When any of the European consuls at Tangier are on their journey to Fez or Morocco, to refresh themselves with the light of the imperial visage, and to settle any necessary business with the sultan, they usually make Ain Dalia their encampment for the first night, the distance being convenient and its situation dry and good.

I had laid in a good supply of fowls and capons at Tangier; and these having been killed in the Moorish manner, I found no difficulty on the part of my attendants in partaking of them, and a plentiful meal was made by all; after which the wine was produced: the only one, however, that I could get to taste it, with the exception of the Portuguese, was Hamet Sharkee, to whom it was really of benefit, from the state of his health. Although the scheik of the douar was absent, we received a good supply of eggs and milk from his brother, who exercised the rules of hospitality in his room; and when tea-time approached I invited him to partake of this beverage, so greatly prized in this country.

We had not very long finished when a dish of kouskousu was brought in as a present from him, to which we all fell, and were soon as merry as light hearts, good appetites, and some hot punch could make us. As the latter is not regarded in the light of wine, and is moreover

boiled, the Mussulmen had not so much scruple in drinking it; and I also prevailed upon Alkaid Suse to taste some bishop, telling him it was merely red lemonade, an assertion which he was too wise to dispute.

After supper was ended I took a stroll, with a cigar in my mouth, round our encampment, which a brilliant moonlight displayed in the most picturesque manner possible; the tent appeared tall and white, and our animals were picketed around it, tranquilly feeding; while at a short distance was the dark clustered group of the douar. The night was calm, and the only sounds heard were the occasional barking of the dogs, the cry of the whistling plover, and the drowsy notes of the Arab drum from some of the tents, where its inmates were amusing themselves in harmless merriment.

As we were surrounded by Arabs, who have not the best reputation for honesty among the Moors, it was necessary to keep a good look-out; and the alkaid, seating himself in a palm-bush close to his gray charger, kept watch for the night, wrapped up in his hayk and sulham.

We were up in good time; and while breakfast was preparing I took my gun, and, accompanied by the alkaid, strolled round the hill after a covey of partridges I had seen from our tent. Ain Dalia, which signifies fountain of the vine, derives its high-sounding name from two small

springs, one of which was a short distance below our encampment, and though not very inviting in its outward look, supplied us with some good water. Adjoining it is a small enclosed garden, containing a few vines and some fig and lemon trees: the latter were full of fruit; and being convenient enough for making punch, I gathered a sufficient quantity for the journey.

On our return we perceived some of the women of the douar approaching us, on their way to the spring; upon which the alkaid, with that respect which the Mahometans in this regard always pay to the female sex, immediately turned aside in a different direction. As we pursued our walk around the douar, we found the inhabitants of the tents civil and obliging, with the exception of the dogs, who were not backward in flying out and attacking the naked heels of my companion: they were of a smaller breed than those I had seen in the Moorish villages about Tangier. The tents of these people, who appeared miserably poor, though contented and happy, were fenced at bottom with a few bushes, being small and wretched, and so torn as to admit the wind and rain. In summer they repair to the plains below, removing at the commencement of the rainy season to the high ground where we were now encamped. I bought some fowls of them at the rate of about four-pence each as a future

supply, having now several mouths to feed daily. The country between Ain Dalia and Tangier is rich and undulating, with several villages interspersed on the rising grounds. The women, who were generally uncovered, were dark and well-looking, with very fine eyes: they wore a miserable rag twisted round their heads; and, like the men, were most wretchedly clothed.

I soon boiled a kettle of coffee for the Moors, and we finished our breakfast. The mules were loaded, and we started about nine, pursuing our way up a gradual ascent above the douar until we reached the top, where a fine view of the great Atlantic presented itself at the distance of a few miles. At our feet, an extensive plain stretched westward to the ocean, bounded to the north and south by mountains, and narrowing towards the sea, where it was terminated by the mouth of a river which traversed the plain and had partially flooded it. On getting to the brow of the descent, which on this side is steep and rapid, I observed a small cultivated spot at a short distance, which I found upon inquiry was the other spring of Ain Dalia. When we had reached the plain, we proceeded in a S.W. direction across it, shaping our course towards a high woody ridge of mountains. The appearance of the ground bore evident marks of the effect of the flooding, and was now under water in parts. Later in the season the whole

of the valley is at times inundated. The soil was cold and stiff, but, notwithstanding its unkindly appearance, tolerably cultivated; and the Arabs were traversing it in different directions with their simple ploughs with greater diligence than I had observed in the richer soil about Tangier. In some parts they were industriously employed in clearing the ground of the high thistles and wild camomile which formed quite a close thicket: these they were collecting into heaps for the purpose of fuel.

Immense flocks of lapwings and golden plover, which were so tame as hardly to take notice of us, afforded both employment for our guns and a supply for our travelling larder: the former birds, from their black and white plumage, as also on account of their squeaking whining notes, were ludicrously called Jews by the Moors of my party. We met with no partridges, the plain being too wet for them. We now reached the river which we had previously seen from the high ground of Ain Dalia. It appeared slightly affected by the tide. The channel was wide, but the quantity of water where we crossed was inconsiderable. Just as we reached its banks a beautiful small-sized kind of crane got up, which I killed in good style at some distance with my single detonater, to the great delight of the Moors. Its colour was milk white; long yellow legs;

bill four inches long; the whole length of the bird being two feet.

The river we had just crossed is called, I was told, Marharhar. After passing it, the plain becomes rather more elevated and undulating, and, with the exception of a few spots, is uncultivated. The soil appeared, nevertheless, superior, from its not being so exposed to flood. To the S.E. is seen a mountain called Beni Messawar. Not far from the river, we met a large party of Arabs with their camels, coming from the district of Garbia. As I walked across the plain ahead of our party, I came to a place where the stones that were lying in all directions at first induced me to suppose them to be the remains of a village, until, on a nearer approach, I found it was an ancient burial-ground, with the sepulchre of a saint, consisting of four low white-washed walls rudely built. On inquiry I learnt that a celebrated saint, called Sidi Hisa Benijlesen, was interred there. At a short distance from it is a spring called by his name, at which our Moors stopped to drink; and a stream beyond is also distinguished in a similar manner; this latter appeared to unite lower down with the one we had before passed.

We were now but at a short distance from the chain of mountains I had seen from Ain Dalia; and, on approaching them, a few straggling cork-trees and myrtle-bushes showed

themselves. At the bottom of the broken range that we were about to ascend, and which is called Ghabat Akloo, is a spring of the same name. The path from this up to the top was steep and rugged, and so broken up by the torrents, that our loaded beasts had the greatest difficulty in scrambling up. When we had nearly reached the summit, a fine view of the Atlantic opened itself, with Cape Spartel in the distance.

The embouchure of the river we had crossed was bordered by woody heights; and if the tide had been up it would have added greatly to the view. As we were proceeding in single file along the narrow track, we encountered a party of Arabs on their camels laden with fowls, and on their way to Tangier market. At the spot where we met them were two large heaps of stones; and I observed, as both Moors and Arabs passed them, that one or two of each party picked up a stone and added it to the heaps. The Moors, on my inquiring the reason of this, showed an evident reluctance to gratify my curiosity, and evaded the question; and it was only afterwards that I found out that these heaps denoted the spot where two murders had been committed.

The upper part of the mountain was tolerably well wooded, chiefly with cork-trees, but of a size far inferior to what I had seen in Spain. The early

rains had brought out a variety of flowers and bulbous plants, which were in full beauty: a kind of wild hyacinth was in the greatest profusion. Notwithstanding the cover was tolerably thick, particularly in the lower parts, where the high grass afforded a good shelter for game, I did not meet with a single thing, although traces of wild boars were occasionally seen. Owing to the steepness and badness of the track and the breadth of the mountain, which is considerable, we were some time in crossing it; and when we had reached the opposite side, we came to a delightful green spot of pasture, where we halted for half an hour to refresh ourselves and beasts after the fatigue we had experienced. On resuming our journey we proceeded across a plain of greater extent than the former; the soil of which seemed poorer, and like it bore the marks of recent inundations from a river which my people spoke of as considerable, and which they said laid in our direction. Our progress, during the day, had been slow, owing to my shooting and the difficult country we had passed through—for even in the plains the travelling was bad and laborious for the loaded mules from the slippery state and deepness of the ground. Owing to this circumstance we found it would be impossible to reach the high lands of Garbia, where we had intended encamping, by the time the sun was

down; and it was therefore determined to direct our steps to an Arab douar in the centre of the plain, and remain there until morning.

The state, indeed, of Hamet Sharkee alone, made this a matter of necessity; for the poor fellow was so ill from the fatigue of crossing the mountain, and the motion of the mule he was on, as to be scarcely capable of keeping his seat. It was yet early when we reached a small douar, and having alighted, prepared to encamp. In this we were assisted by the scheik, who came out from his tent, whither I had previously seen him retire, dressed in his best hayk to receive the strangers, and directed us in the choice both of a dry spot for our night quarters and of good pasture for the mules, which, having unloaded, we turned out to graze.

While the necessary preparations were making for the night, I strolled through the plain with my gun, accompanied by the scheik of the douar, whose name was Sidi Omar, and who was a tall dark good-humoured-looking Arab, with beautiful white teeth, which they in general have. We found the people industriously employed with their rude ploughs, drawn by two oxen, in breaking a stiff unkind soil, and which, from its being a strong clay, they had great difficulty in getting through. They succeed, notwithstanding, in obtaining tolerable crops of wheat, barley, peas and beans, maize, and some

small turnips. The produce is, however, much starved by the coldness and wetness of the land, owing to its low, flat situation, and its being constantly inundated by the river. The most luxuriant crop it produced was that of thistles, which exceeded any that I had before seen in thickness and height. Although they choke the land, yet they are not without their use, being serviceable both as fuel, which is here very scarce, and also for fencing round the tents. When the ground is exhausted, the douar removes to another spot. The one we were now at had been three years in its present situation, having before been encamped higher up the plain at the foot of Ghabat Akloo. We were not very successful in our sport, although it was not from want of game. In the turnips we sprang some partridges without getting a shot; and along the river there were abundance of snipes and shore birds, and we saw also some flocks of ducks going towards the sea.

Were the people more civilized than they are in Morocco, and did not the jealous suspicions interpose such insuperable difficulties to the progress of the christian sportsman, Barbary would doubtless present a fine field to him; and could he but penetrate to the interior parts of the country, he would find full scope for his ardour in the chase of the larger and nobler beasts of prey, whose wild haunts are chiefly confined to the chain of

the higher Atlas, and which do not commonly approach the country bordering upon the coast. The lion, that prince of the African deserts, is not to be met nearer than several days' journey from Tangier; it is said that in the neighbouring forest of Rabat, this noble beast is to be met with. The hyena, called by the Moors dubbah, is more common, and I frequently heard of it during my journey, as likewise of the jackall. I could not ascertain satisfactorily whether any of the deer species are ever found in the northern parts of Morocco: if the accounts of the Moors, whom I have frequently interrogated on this head, are to be trusted, they are sometimes seen within a day or two's journey of Tangier, and it is not improbable that the gazelle, which is, I believe, sometimes seen on the northern side of the Atlas, may occasionally extend its emigrations towards the coast districts: little reliance, however, can be placed on the accounts of the Moors, which are so vague and unsatisfactory, that, should a wild goose chase be the object, nothing more would be necessary to insure sport in this particular than to attend to them. The sportsman who can wean himself from the romantic pleasure of partridge shooting in an English turnip field by the side of a high road, or tear himself away from the cockney delight of a pheasant battue, a ramble, with his gun for his only companion, in so wild a country as Barbary, will

not be without attractions, although he may not have the success of Mr. Waterton, in the south, or of my friend Mr. Loyd in the north, whose daring ardour, still in operation, has laid low so many of the shaggy inhabitants of the Scandinavian forests.

I made several inquiries respecting the animal mentioned by Dr. Shaw, under the name of the kumrah, but with no better success than I believe other travellers have done. The particular description given by the doctor of it, as stated to have been seen by him, and which is asserted to be the offspring of the ass and cow, and very serviceable in Barbary as a beast of burthen, would almost warrant the belief that such an animal existed, if the numerous inquiries which have been made at different times by subsequent travellers did not render it a matter of great doubt, to say the least of it. "That which I saw," observes the doctor, "was single hoofed like the ass, but different from it in every other respect, having a sleeker skin, and the tail and head, though without horns, resembling the dams."

Had this description proceeded from a traveller imperfectly acquainted with the country, it would not have been very surprising if such a person had been deceived through his placing too great reliance on the information of the Moors, who in most cases take a pride in en-

deavouring to mislead a christian; when, however, we find a minute account seriously given by an author like Dr. Shaw, who, from a residence of many years in Barbary, must have been perfectly familiar with the country and its productions, all that can be said is, that it is very strange.

On returning to the douar I found the tents up, and every thing in order. The dwellings of these Arabs, like those of the former, were poor and wretched; and the appearance, both of the people and tents, resembled a gipsy encampment. Adjoining were two conical thatched huts; one of which was the simple mosque of the douar, in which the talib, or schoolmaster, was teaching the children the koran, who were repeating it after him aloud. At five o'clock, the hour of evening prayer was announced with a loud solemn voice; upon which my attendants, spreading their carpets, which formed the covering for the mules, performed their customary prostrations with their bodies turned towards the east. It was an impressive sight, and the example worthy of being followed by others infinitely more civilized than the inhabitants of the wild country I was now in.

As night approached our fine weather changed, the wind got to the S.E. and it began to rain, to the mortification of all parties. When the wet weather commences, the rain will frequently

continue for several weeks without intermission; and I was not a little vexed at the prospect of being obliged to retrace our way to Tangier, should it continue, on account of the impossibility of crossing the rivers that laid in our way.

When tea was ready, I invited the scheik into my tent, along with the talib and one or two more of the principal inhabitants of the douar; and it was not a little amusing to observe the delight with which they drank it, smacking their lips, and appearing quite astonished at the size of the cups and the fineness of the tea-service, although it was only common ware.

These Arabs are certainly a very different race from the Moors, possessing none of the cold repulsive pride and haughty bigotry of the latter, especially when in company with Christians: on the contrary, I found them universally humble and obliging, and, in spite of their poverty, contented and cheerful. Liberty, doubtless, that great charm of existence, has given them these happy qualities of mind; and despised as they are by the Moors for their wild state of life, they live unmolested by the arm of despotism and tyranny which is so severely felt by other races in the country. The Arab of Morocco is at once distinguished from the Moor by his wretched and half-naked appearance, his wild look, his copper-coloured complexion, and from having little or no beard: in person he is even

taller than the Moor, and of a more athletic frame, though of a sparer habit of body: his features are generally smaller, the countenance is thinner and narrower, and the shape of the skull in many instances singular, being frequently so high and compressed at the crown as to form almost a kind of ridge. Although evidently acquainted with the words Arab and Bedouin—which they pronounce Arabe, Bedoue—when asked what they call themselves, they will answer Moslemini, Musselmen; by which, generally, both the Arabs and Moors designate themselves. In time of war, the scheik of each douar is obliged to furnish a certain number of men to the bashaw of the province: and this, with a small present to the sultan as an occasional tribute, and another to the bashaw, is all that is expected.

The Bedouin Arabs, who are to be found dispersed over a considerable part of Africa, and scattered from the confines of Persia to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, still retain the characteristics of their wild ancestor, Ishmael, from whom tradition reports them to be descended. They may be divided into two classes; namely, those who support themselves entirely by their flocks, and those who, also, derive their subsistence by means of agriculture. The Bedouin of the latter class generally fixes himself in the

plains and vallies; depends not only upon his herds, but the produce of the land. The system of tillage practised by him is, however, so rude and imperfect as to afford little more than a scanty subsistence; and the agricultural Bedouin of Morocco is generally poor and wretched in the extreme. The two classes of Arabs above-mentioned are in no respects essentially different from each other, although the habits of the agricultural Bedouin are more peaceable and humanized, from the more domestic life he leads; whereas the roving Arab of the desert is, like the burning soil he is doomed to tread, of hot and savage mould: the fertility or barrenness of the soil creates, both in Arabia and Barbary, the same difference in the habits of life of the Bedouins; and the Arabs, in this respect like the inhabitants of the rest of the globe, whether civilized or barbarous, acquire a character from the circumstances which surround them, among which soil and climate are not the least influential. Nature thus divides them into the pastoral and agricultural Arab; both are wanderers from necessity, although the latter is by far the most stationary. In summer the rich pasturage of the lower grounds induces him to pitch his tent in the plains, not only on account of his flocks, but to till the ground to afford him support during the winter; while, at the approach of the latter

season, he seeks the slopes of the hills and the higher grounds to obtain a dry encampment and a security from the inundation of the rivers, which at times do him considerable damage from the suddenness of their rise, sweeping away his scanty crops. When he has sojourned two or three years in the same spot, the ground becomes exhausted; and he then moves his tent to another tract of land, generally in the neighbourhood. The Arab population being thinly scattered throughout the country in Morocco, and the soil of the plains where the Bedouin is to be found being generally rich, he has thus seldom an occasion to remove his encampment far from the former one; and his whole life is thus often spent within a district of a few miles.

The Nomade tribes of pastoral Arabs are, however, by far the most powerful and flourishing; and it is in Arabia, in particular, which may be considered their proper country, that this race should be seen in perfection. These wild sons of nature value themselves in proportion to their freedom, while they look down, in general, with a degree of contempt on those of their brethren; and in this respect, there is a strong point of resemblance between the roving Arab of the desert, with his camels, and the wandering Laplander of Finmark, who, roaming with his herds of deer across the snowy wastes of the

North, like his wild southern brethren, regards, with feelings of disdain, nursed by the enjoyment of real liberty, the Laplander of the coast who subsists by fishing.

The Bedouin Arabs are divided into numerous tribes, each under its respective scheik, or chief. To him implicit obedience is paid; and far more so, in these times, than to a European sovereign from his subjects. Each tribe possesses itself of a certain tract of country, more or less extensive, in proportion to the fertility of the soil and its capability of supporting their flocks. In the desert, where there is a scarcity of pasturage for the camels and other flocks, a larger extent of country is necessary to afford even a bare subsistence, and the Bedouins' tents are more scattered; whereas, in more luxuriant districts, the tribe is more limited in its boundaries, and the encampments are more frequently met with. A considerable part of Africa consisting, however, of sandy deserts, with tufts of vegetation thinly scattered here and there over the surface, or of ground unsuitable for tillage, although capable of affording a short subsistence to the flocks of the wandering Bedouin, it is but rarely, in comparison, that he meets with a spot, the pasturage of which is sufficiently rich and abundant to support him for a longer period than a few days; and he is obliged to remove

elsewhere. The encampments of these Arabs are usually formed in a kind of irregular circle, and when viewed at a distance present a singular appearance, from the sombre colour of the tents, which are nearly black; the texture of them is well calculated to resist the wet, being woven from goat's or camel's hair, and in its look a good deal similar to the coarse dark jelibeas worn by the lower classes.

The territory of each tribe may be considered a petty kingdom subject to its own chief; and should any aggressions or encroachments be made upon it by any of the neighbouring tribes, war is generally the consequence, and is prosecuted with the greatest animosity; the spirit of hostility, if satisfaction be not made, being continued for years, and handed down in perpetuity from father to son: there is no being on earth, perhaps, who adheres so scrupulously to the principles of revenge, or who displays so savage a spirit of perseverance in the retaliation of a wrong, or injury, as the Arab, naturally fierce and cruel as he is in his disposition, and this character being confirmed by the spirit of his religion, to which he is bigotedly attached. The Arab, like the Moor, is a stranger to mercy or forgiveness, and when blood has once been shed, the stain can only be effaced by blood; and if revenge be not obtained, the injury is handed down from one generation to another,

until circumstances afford an opportunity of obtaining the required satisfaction: in other respects, there is much to admire in the character of the Bedouin Arab, and there is much in the simple book of the stern free rover of the desert, that might be perused with advantage by the more civilized and luxurious sons of Europe. Temperate and hardy from his mode of life, and, like his camel, capable of supporting the extremes of thirst, a handful of dates, with the water of the spring, will at times form his only subsistence for days; while, at others, his luxuries are confined to milk and cheese, with the occasional addition, perhaps, of a little flesh: poor, however, as his fare is, there is no being who more cheerfully shares his pittance with the stranger, no one who holds more sacred the duties of hospitality, or more readily extends his protection to whoever will seek for it within the cover of his tent. Wandering along the shores of Africa and separated by so short a distance from civilized Europe, yet still how widely removed from and how little affected does the Bedouin Arab appear by the march of modern improvement and civilization! It is but a few centuries since Europe herself was deeply immersed in barbarism: what rapid strides has she since made; while close to her own shores are still to be seen the same primitive race of shepherds whose habits of life remain precisely the

same as described in the holy volume, uninfluenced by civilization, unchanged by the flight of time!

During the time we were sipping our tea, the rain had ceased; but recommenced, shortly afterwards, in so steady and determined a manner that I had no longer any doubt but that it would continue. I hardly knew how to act; not merely with regard to myself, but the poor invalid Moor, who, as night approached, was in a state of high fever, and got so much worse that I became seriously alarmed for him; and I felt uncomfortable, both for his sake and mine own; as, should he happen to die, which I almost apprehended from his state, nothing would have persuaded the Moors of Tangier that I had not been the occasion of it; which, indeed, I should have been, although innocently; and I should thus, perhaps, have been placed in a most unpleasant situation. His proceeding any further was quite out of the question; and the only course to be pursued was to get him back any how to Tangier before the rain should have put a stop to the communication. We were all in very low spirits on account of these untoward circumstances, when a large bowl of kouskous, which the scheik brought in as a present, accompanied by a dish of sour milk, made its appearance, and somewhat diverted our attention.

Whilst we were at supper, a party of Jews, with a loaded mule, on which sat a female, sought shelter for the night at the douar, and were received into the different tents: they had come from Larache, and were on their road to Tangier. I now saw the convenience, and indeed the necessity, of having a second tent on a journey of this kind. The one I had fortunately provided kept all the party warm and dry; which, in the present state of the weather, was an object of no little importance. Although the night was so bad, the alkaid would not shelter himself under cover, but remained on guard during the night, as before; not so much on account of the Arabs of the douar as for fear of a visit from the mountaineers of Jibbel Habib, who might, as frequently happens, come down and carry off our baggage-mules, along with the cattle. During the night our ears were saluted with the united voices of legions of frogs from the wet surrounding lands, which, with the pattering of the rain upon the tent and the distant roaring of the sea, produced altogether a most melancholy kind of concert.

The precautions of the alkaid were not without reason, as the mountaineers—or, as they are called by the Moors, Jibbeler—actually carried off some of the cattle, during the night, which were near the douar, but which had been recovered and driven back by the Arabs as soon

as the light enabled them to discover their loss. These poor people are much exposed to the incursions of these savage tribes, and frequently sustain considerable loss through their attacks. A short time previously, they had attempted to carry off the scheik's own tent, which was of a larger size than the others; and a contest ensued in consequence, in which the plunderers were driven off. The vague information I received of the tribes who inhabit these and the neighbouring mountains, rendered it uncertain whether they were Moors or Arabs, although the latter race confine themselves generally to the plain country, or at least those parts where they are enabled to subsist by tillage. The Schleuxs, or Brebers, do not approach I believe so near the coast, inhabiting principally the different chains of the Atlas mountains and the regions bordering upon them.

The rain, which had continued throughout the night, abated towards morning; but as the wind had shifted to the S.W. our prospects of fine weather were but feeble. Hamet Sharkee*, to my satisfaction, was considerably better, but by no means in a state to continue the journey; and having therefore procured a horse and a person to take care of him,

* Recent accounts which I have received from Barbary have informed me that the poor fellow is dead.

he was sent back to Tangier. I felt his loss sensibly, as my other interpreter, the Portuguese, ill supplied his place. Although we were up at an early hour, what with the time consumed in drinking coffee, packing up the provisions, canteen, tents, loading the mules, and the dilatory habits of the Moors, it was nine o'clock when, after expressing our thanks to the worthy scheik for his kind attentions, we left the douar; and after crossing a small stream, we found ourselves on the high banks of a broad and rather considerable river, which is called the Mechra el Hachef. Its direction is similar to the one we had crossed the preceding day. From its vicinity to the mountains its channel becomes quickly swelled; and, at times, it inundates the whole of the plain, sweeping off the crops, and causing a considerable loss to the poor Arabs. Large flocks of ducks were winging their way down the stream towards the sea; and numbers of the common heron were sitting quietly on the banks, undisturbed by our approach. The base of Jibbel Habib was skirted by white fleecy clouds, and foretold that we should have more rain. We crossed at a part where the river was tolerably low, and got safe to the other side, when we directed our course along the plain to the S.W. As we advanced, we found the upper part of it partially flooded from the rain of the preceding night; and our

mules had great difficulty in crossing it with their heavy loads, sinking almost every step knee deep into the soft fallow, the soil of which seemed of a better nature than that of the lower part: it was chiefly sown with maize.

As we passed along we disturbed immense quantities of snipes, which got up in flocks around us unmolested, as, the morning being wet, the guns had been put up into their covers. Having reached the extremity of the plain, we began to ascend the hills which border upon it, the grassy sides of which were covered with the narcissus and other plants. Observing at a short distance some remains of buildings on rising ground to our right, I directed the party to proceed slowly, and rode up, accompanied by the alkaid, to examine them; which, from the rain again commencing, I was obliged to do in a hasty manner. I found them to consist of a narrow oblong building, divided into small chambers or compartments, the entrance to it being only a low aperture on the east side. The walls were of very considerable thickness, and I did not perceive any traces of windows. Adjoining were some remains of higher walls. All the information I could get from my companions on overtaking them, was, that these remains had existed previous to the time of the Moors. How different is Morocco at the present period from what she appears to have been even in modern days; and

how difficult it is for a person acquainted with the present state of the country to persuade himself that the accounts of Leo Africanus are correct, who, in his description of it, mentions the very numerous flourishing cities and towns of Morocco, both on the coast and the interior of the empire! The traveller will now search in vain for these, however indefatigable he may be, and a few shattered wretched towns will alone meet his view.

The soil on the tops of the neighbouring hills was bare, and of a bright red colour, which gave them a singular appearance. After a gradual and lengthened ascent, we now reached a fine extent of elevated table-land, which is known by the name of Garbia, consisting for several miles entirely of sheep pasture. If the weather had not unfortunately been thick, with small mizzling rain, we should have had, I was told, a very fine view of the mountains to the eastward, with the coast of the Atlantic in the opposite direction. I regretted much the badness of the day, both on this account, and also from its preventing my shooting, for these fine downs appeared to abound in game: the golden plover were in particular most abundant, and whole flocks of them sat unconcernedly a few yards from our party as it passed. This wild stretch of high land is inhabited by shepherds, whose flocks are scattered over it. Their huts are seen

in small clusters in different parts of it, surrounded by thick fences of the cactus, and with adjoining gardens well planted with fig-trees.

After journeying for some distance, we came to a spot where a weekly market is held on a Sunday, and is attended by the Moors and Arabs of the surrounding country, who bring to it cattle, sheep, and corn. The place, which is called Ahd Garbia, signifying the market-place of Garbia, is only distinguished by its being bare of vegetation, and encircled by stones. Near it is the spring of Garbia, and at no great distance some habitations. The path we pursued was a fine dry sand, the best road I had yet seen. Among the palm-bushes, as we passed, I observed numbers of the small striated Barbary mouse. This little animal, which is rare—being only found, I believe, in Barbary—is of a lightish brown, marked with narrow stripes of a paler colour: it inhabits the roots of the palmeta or low palm-bush, and I observed it very frequently in the open country during my journey. We passed a small group of Arab tents. When several are collected, they are called a douar; a single tent, "chaima."

We had been traversing for a considerable time these highlands, when we reached the termination of them and came to a steep descent, at the bottom of which was the river Ayache. Having crossed this, we continued our course in

a southerly direction, over a circular cultivated plain, bounded by low ranges of mountains, and flooded like the whole of the plain country we had passed through from Tangier. On an eminence to our right, an olive wood formed a conspicuous object, which I was informed was a sanctuary, a celebrated saint of the name of Mohamed Ben Ali having been interred there. At no great distance from it was another sanctuary, the situation of which was also pointed out by a smaller olive grove.

The saints in Barbary, who are not only a very numerous, but a very powerful class, may be divided into rogues and fools; the first being those who, by the aid of pretended sanctity and cunning, succeed in deceiving the ignorant and superstitious race among whom they live, and in time firmly establish themselves as saints; while the last are literally every idiot or madman in the country, who are also dignified by the Moors with the title of saints, although regarded in a different light from the former gentry. These, when their character for sanctity has been spread abroad, and placed on a tolerably sure footing, have nothing more to do but to laugh in their sleeve at their dupes and roll in plenty. A saint of this description, when he has reached the ne plus ultra of sanctity, is distinguished only by the meanness of his dress, his squalid and dirty look, and person so filthy,

that it is not the most agreeable thing to get into the neighbourhood of one of these holy people. Nevertheless, he is almost worshipped by all classes, loaded with presents from rich and poor, and is generally in such consideration with and so much looked up to by the sultan himself, as to be his adviser upon all occasions, and to be constantly at his elbow*. After his death the place of his interment is distinguished by a handsome tomb, which from that time becomes a sanctuary for criminals of every description, and where a refuge, that is ever after held sacred by the Moors, is afforded to all.

The saints—who are full as continent as their brethren, the Spanish monks, but far more open in their proceedings—besides their other possessions, have frequently several wives in addition to the usual Mahometan establishment of female assistants. A numerous progeny succeeds, all of whom, it may be supposed, imbibe a small portion of the sanctity of the father, and are in some degree qualified themselves to become saints. On the demise of the original saint, the saintship, being hereditary, devolves upon his successor, who, during the lifetime of his father, has had ample opportunity of making

* When the Sultan of Morocco travels through his dominions, he is usually accompanied by one of these saints, who relieve each other at certain distances, and who possess an unlimited power both over the bigoted despot and his subjects.

himself well acquainted with the different mysteries and arcana of this holy trade. On him now devolves the care of the tomb or shrine of the departed saint, and of receiving the numerous presents and offerings which are brought by the pious from all parts, and appropriated by the new saint, with singular pleasure and veneration, to himself. From this time the sanctuary becomes a most valuable family property, and the farce is perpetuated for ages.

I learnt now, to my satisfaction, that we were here at no great distance from Beni Goffert; and after a short time the alkaid, who headed the party, deviated suddenly from the track, and turned up into the mountains to the surprise of the muleteers, who, being ignorant of my intentions, did not fail to grumble loudly.

After a short time we fell into a track which we expected would lead towards the douar we were in search of. Upon reaching the high grounds we kept through the mountains, which were naked and devoid of wood. Their appearance a good deal reminded me of the Derbyshire moors. The weather had a little cleared up, but large floating masses of mist still concealed the distant features of the country. The mountain-sides were, for the first time that I had observed, thickly clothed with fern, which imparted a picturesque variety, and added much to their appearance. A few date-trees which

we now passed, and which rose above a low wall, shaded the remains of another saint, whose name I have forgotten: he was, however, they told me, a great man, and planted the trees under which his body reposed with his own hand. A short distance from it was a picturesque cleft planted with fig-trees. We were now close to the douar of Mazora, which shortly appeared, and at the same time, to my great pleasure, the column I was in search of, and which rose like an obelisk above the black surrounding tents of the Arabs.

The alkaid was very anxious for me to have proceeded as soon as I should have gratified my curiosity, and to have taken up my quarters at a douar a short distance off. This was, as he said, on account of the bad character of the people where we now were. This plan, however, would have prevented my examining the place with the leisure I wished. I therefore determined to remain, and accordingly gave orders for the tents to be pitched almost close to the pillar. It may well be supposed that the arrival of our company, and in particular of a Christian, at this wild and unfrequented spot, created no little sensation and astonishment among the inhabitants, who quickly flocked round us and viewed our proceedings with the greatest astonishment while we were unpacking the baggage and preparing for our night's quarters.

CHAPTER II.

Ancient Pillar called L'Uted.—Description of the Remains.—Compared with the Celtic Monuments in our own Country.—Its great Antiquity.—Singular Traditions.—Badness of the Weather.—Observations of the Arabs.—Night-Watch.—Douar of Mazora.—Arab Tents.—Dress of the Women.—Necklaces purchased.—Description of them.—Journey continued.—Nature of the Country.—Myrtle Plains.—Sahel.—Moorish Village.—Encamp for the Night.—Sidi Absalom, the Scheik.—Wild Boars.—Talib.—Set out for Larache.—Extensive View.—Saint of Wazein.—Battle of Alkassar, in 1578.—Cross the Luccos.—Arrival at Larache.

EL'UTED, the name by which the pillar alluded to is generally known to the Moors, is so called from a tradition attendant upon it, which will be mentioned hereafter, and from the similarity of its shape to the peg with which they picket their horses, the word uted, or weted, in Moorish, signifying a peg. The douar, which is close to it, and which is called, according to the information of the Moors my attendants, Mazora, is situated at the extremity of a long mountain valley which runs nearly north and south on a tolerably high table-land, from which steep grassy slopes descend to the plain below. To the S. and E. are seen the mountain ranges of Beni Goffert and Jibbel Habib, and which are connected with the different ranges of the Atlas chain.

The ancient remains which are here found are widely scattered; some in the vicinity of, and others quite close to the tents of the douar. They consist principally of the pillar or needle, which, from its form and the elevated situation on which it stands, is discernible at a considerable distance in the valley to the north. It is placed to the west on the edge of a large circular tumulus of considerable circumference, and nearly surrounded by irregularly shaped upright stones, eighty-six in number, and of different sizes, being in general about a yard asunder. From appearances, it is probable that the whole circumference of the tumulus was once bordered by these stones, and that they have been perhaps removed by the inhabitants for making a fence to the adjacent dwellings, or for other purposes: on the east side they are wanting. Of the whole number some few only are of the height of three or four feet, of which two or three are conical-shaped. On the side facing the south are placed two rounded upright stones, about three feet in height, opposite to each other, and evidently intended as the entrance to the tumulus on this side, in the same manner as the large pillar forms the principal one to the west. Close to the former is a conical stone, on which appears a narrow border of transverse marks at the sides, evidently ancient, and done by some instrument; one of the large

rounded blocks which, as I have before observed, form an apparent entrance to the south being similarly marked, though the crosses have less regularity, and are more generally spread over the surface.

The pillar itself, which is sixteen feet in height, by about nine in circumference when measured a few feet from the ground, is compressed at the sides, instead of being conical, and is formed of a single block of stone, which has acquired considerable hardness from long exposure to the atmosphere. In shape it is similar to some of the single stones at Stonehenge and of other Celtic monuments. It is devoid of any inscription, figures, or characters; and the hand of man does not appear on any part of it, except on the side to the east, where, about three feet from the ground, there is a circular hole* eight inches deep, and near a foot in diameter. This cavity, however, has the appearance of being more modern work than the pillar itself, and may probably have been made by the Arabs with the points of their knives, and gradually enlarged in succeeding ages, in the expectation of finding a treasure, which they have a strong idea it contains within it.

* One of the stones of the splendid Celtic monument at Abury had a perforation through it, supposed by antiquaries to have been made for the purpose of attaching the victim when about to be sacrificed.

L'Uted

The accompanying sketch, taken at a short distance, will give a sufficient idea of the pillar and tumulus, the latter of which, from its being depressed and sunk towards the south, has rather an oblong appearance than a circular form. About one-third of a mile to the north of the pillar are four other stones, irregularly shaped, the largest about eight feet in length, and partly buried in the ground; and not far from these is a conical-shaped stone four feet in height, and standing in a slanting position. About one hundred yards also to the north of the pillar is a collection of nine other stones, of various sizes, and lying flat—with the exception of one of inconsiderable size, which stands in a slanting position. Not far from the pillar to the west is an enormous oblong single block, lying horizontally, rounded at top, and cut away near the upper end so as to afford a faint and rude resemblance to the head of a reclining figure. It is twelve feet in length, about two feet above the ground at the highest part, and a foot and a half across the upper surface. Near a quarter of a mile to the west of the pillar, and close to the douar, is a groupe of six principal stones, and other smaller ones lying horizontally—with the exception of two, one of which is circular and of considerable circumference, the upper part being broken and irregular. The largest of these stones

is a massive single block, fifteen feet in length, rounded at the sides, and about three feet across the upper surface, on which are clusters of small circular indentations or hollows, ranged six, seven, and nine together, with one or two in the centre. Some of the stones would almost lead us, on account of their immense size, to the same inquiry which has been suggested by similar monuments in our own country, namely, what were the means of transport employed for the conveyance of these huge blocks, although the simple powers of a primitive race have, perhaps, been too much underrated in this age of machinery. However it might have been effected in those early periods, it is very certain, and it does not at the same time speak for the advancement of the people, that the present inhabitants of the country would not only be greatly puzzled, but would find it quite a matter of impossibility to remove even some of the smallest of the stones which are to be found scattered about in the neighbourhood of the pillar of L'Uted. Without entering into any inquiry as to the nature and origin of these remains, which I will leave to abler antiquaries than myself, I shall merely mention here a few of the numerous Druidical and Celtic monuments in our own country, which appear so similar to those I have just noticed, that I think it may be pre-

sumed that they are at least coeval, if not the work of the same race of people.

The Rudston, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, on the wolds, and close to Rudstone churchyard:—This is a pyramidal single stone, very similar in shape to the L'Uted pillar; its height aboveground being twenty-four feet, and its depth below the surface having been ascertained to be nearly the same. It has been generally supposed to be a funeral monument: no tradition, however, exists respecting it.—The temple of Arbour Lows, in the Peak of Derbyshire —described, as is the former, by Mr. Pegge:—This is circular, and encompassed by thirty-two very large stones, which, though now prostrate and broken, at one period stood erect, two and two together. It had, like the L'Uted monument, two entrances, denoted and formed by two lofty stones or pillars. These entrances were nearly north and south.—Ancient remains on Stanton and Hartle Moor, in the Peak, Derbyshire:—Among these, and half a mile from the remarkable stones called the Rowtor Rocks, is a Druidical circle or temple, of nine erect stones, called "The Nine Ladies," with a single stone near them called "The King." Half a mile to the west of the above is another Druid circle, once consisting also of nine stones, the height of the principal one being seventeen feet. —Catigern's monument, in the parish of Adding-

ton, near Town Malling, Kent, described by Mr. Colebrooke:—The stones are here disposed in an oval form, and the number of them appears to have been originally twenty, the principal one, which once stood erect, being fifteen feet in length, a foot less than the one at L'Uted, and its other dimensions nearly corresponding: on the east and west sides are large erect stones indicating the entrances to the monument. Near the above is a circle of six other stones, the largest being seven feet in height. The latter is supposed by Mr. Colebrooke to be Catigern's monument, the former a temple of the ancient Britons. On the whole, judging from the description and representation of this monument in the Archæologia, it may be said that it corresponds, in the disposition of the stones and the general appearance of the whole, in a very striking manner, with the pillar at L'Uted.—Druidical monuments near Halifax in Yorkshire:—Among these the most remarkable are the Bride Stones at Stanfield, and which also are similar to the L'Uted remains. These, which are surrounded by a vast variety of scattered rocks and stones of different magnitudes, consist of two large stones or pillars, one of which is prostrate, the other upright; the height of the latter being fifteen feet, and its diameter in the thickest part about nine.—The Rowldrich or Rolleric Stones, near Chipping-

Norton in Oxfordshire:—These, which are placed erect, form an open temple of a circular form, and are supposed to be Druidical.—The sepulchral monument at New Grange, near Drogheda, county Meath:—This is also Druidical, and is described by Mr. Higgins in his splendid work of the Celtic Druids, lately published, as consisting of a circle of large upright unhewn stones, with a considerable barrow or tumulus adjoining. It is singular that some of the stones are scrolled or marked in a manner somewhat similar to those of L'Uted. Similar circles of stones, known by the name of The Hurlers, are also existing in Cornwall.—The last I shall mention are the Stennis Stones in the Orkneys:—These, which form a circle three hundred feet in diameter, are erect and of considerable height and magnitude, being accompanied by several large barrows.

It is, I believe, a prevailing and deeply rooted idea with the lower classes of all parts of the world that there is treasure hidden wherever there happens to be any ancient remains, the origin of which the lapse of time has rendered more than usually mysterious and obscure. This was the case at L'Uted; and I was now told of a hundred marvellous stories of the riches thatwere concealed within the tumulus, the different attempts that had been made at discovery, and the supernatural manner in which they had

always been frustrated. That the remains at L'Uted are of the highest antiquity there can be no doubt; indeed the very traditions themselves which are current upon the spot, and were eagerly related to me, are strongly in favour of it, singular as they may be in their nature; one of them is, that Pharaoh, king of Egypt, made use of the principal stone or pillar as a peg, and picketed his horse with it on alighting at L'Uted; and another, that at the period of the general deluge, "when the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and after that the waters began to abate from the surface of the earth," Noah sent forth a dove from the ark, which first alighted on the pillar of L'Uted.

In concluding this account of these remains, it may be observed that, without attaching too much credit to either of these traditions, or wishing to consider them as exactly antediluvian, the authority of the learned antiquary Mr. Bowles may here be well adduced in proof of their very remote antiquity. This gentleman is of opinion that these kind of pillars or pyramidal stones were in existence not long after the flood. In the primeval ages, when the cathedral had not yet reared its stately mass, mankind were content to worship the great God of nature under the roof alone of his own splendid temple, the blue arch of heaven; and instead of the funereal luxury of after ages, the sculptured

marble, the emblazoned shield, and the warrior's casque, a rude block of stone, on the mountain top, denoted both the spot where the simple Druid worshipped and where his ashes still repose.

We had encamped but a short time when our weather changed for the worse, and a steady pouring rain continued throughout the remainder of the day. When night approached, the scheik of the neighbouring douar, who had been officiating in the absence of his colleague, and who had been sitting in my tent, retired, and at the hour of supper-time returned with a supply of eggs, milk, and an immense dish of kouskous, which, large as it appeared, was very quickly emptied. Our animals had also plenty of barley; and although the weather was so indifferent, I found myself extremely comfortable in my present quarters, owing to the tightness of the tent, which was water-proof, in spite of the deluge which kept falling. It was not a little amusing to hear the observations of the Arabs, who crowded into the tent, respecting the object of my coming; which they had no doubt was to discover the treasure concealed within the mound, but which they said it was quite useless for a Christian to search after, since so many talibs and learned men of their own people had failed in their attempts to find it. My simple guest told me the stone

grew, and that there certainly was a door near it, but which no one had yet been able to find: he added what perhaps was not without foundation—that the mound was hollow, and that a stick which had been thrust in in one particular part had penetrated several feet without touching the bottom.

The scheik knew the character of these mountaineers well; and it was no sooner dark than he appointed eight men as our guard for the night, with pretty strong threats of losing their heads if they permitted any attack upon the Christian, as he designated me. Our animals were picketed close to us; and as the alkaid kept also a vigilant look-out, we were under no apprehension of having an attack made upon us, which would otherwise certainly have been the case. About ten o'clock the rain ceased and the moon appeared with a faint light through the clouds, just sufficient to discover the black tents of the Arabs and the tall needle of the pillar beyond them. The wind had got round a point to the N. W., and I was in strong hopes that the weather would be fine in the morning from the appearance of the clouds. The dogs kept as vigilant a watch during the night as our guard, and probably much greater: their bayings were incessant, and answered without ceasing by their comrades belonging to the douars on the neighbouring hills. The suc-

ceeding morning proved fine, and the early part of it was employed in drying the baggage and in preparations for pursuing our journey.

Mazora is inhabited both by Arabs and mountaineers. The latter dwell in tolerably substantial huts, built in general of an unburnt kind of clay bricks rudely formed, with a roughly thatched straw roof, which comes down so low as to hide the walls and give them the appearance at a short distance of small ricks of straw, which at first I imagined them to be, until the smoke was seen issuing from the upper part of them, they being destitute of chimneys. I counted about twenty of these habitations, which are scattered chiefly to the westward of the pillar. Some of them had a neat fence of cane enclosing a small space before them; while in others a few dry bushes heaped and kept together by canes formed a rough hedge. The number of Arabs' tents did not exceed five or six, and the people were even more wretched in their appearance than those of the plains, but infinitely less peaceable, as I was informed, in their disposition. The tents, which were low, barely allowing a man to stand upright within them, were open in front, and made of a black thick woollen stuff of a sufficiently strong texture to keep out the rain. I visited some of them and was received with civility, though a little difficulty was made at first to my admission on account of

the women, who were quite uncovered—I mean as to their faces—and only remarkable for their wild and swarthy countenances. Their dress, which was of the most wretched kind, consisted of a loose woollen rag thrown over their heads and shoulders, with a kaftan girded round the middle, and reaching just below the knee.

In one of the tents a young woman, who was better-looking than the rest I had seen, was occupied in baking on an iron plate thin coarse cakes of aldora (holcus sorghum), which I tasted, and found very indifferent. This grain is chiefly used by the poorest classes for making a coarse kind of bread generally eaten along with sour milk. By subsisting on this homely food, they are enabled to sell their wheat and barley. Although at first a little shyness was affected on account of the presence of their husbands, it speedily wore off, and the tent, which was small and confined, was filled with the females of the adjoining one, crowding in to have a peep at the Christian, whom they viewed with as much surprise and curiosity as I did them.

Observing that some of them wore curious-looking necklaces, I promised a liberal price to those who would part with theirs, and had hardly got back to my tent, when half the women of the douar presented themselves at the door of it, with a supply so abundant and

varied as would have satiated the utmost desires of any collector. These good people were, however, determined to put my generosity to the test; and asked such an unconscionable price for their finery, that it was enough to make, indeed, any Christian stare. By degrees, however, they became a little more moderate in their demands, and I succeeded in making a purchase of a necklace at a price which was, however, considered so good, that it spread like wildfire, and in ten minutes' time, instead of three or four, I had twenty women and twenty necklaces, of different sizes, patterns, and materials, which they offered with such eagerness and avidity that I soon perceived I should be enabled to purchase them on more moderate terms than I did the first. At the sight of my large bag of silver money, these poor frail creatures became almost distracted, and for a tenth part of its contents would not only have sold me every ornament they possessed in the world, but would have thrown themselves into the bargain, had they fancied it would have been any additional temptation. The sale continued very brisk for some time, and I eventually became the possessor of half-a-dozen necklaces; when, being quite satisfied, I cried, "Enough," and dismissed my fair crowd.

A description of two of the purchases I

made will be sufficient. One of them was composed of enormous bunches of cloves separated by large circular pieces of amber, links of red coral, glass beads, pieces of thin rolled silver, and polished pebbles, interspersed with small silver Moorish coins. The other was a string of coral and amber, varied with pieces of silver, bits of glass, cowrie shells, silver, copper, and brass coins, with a massive silver ornament hanging pendant from the necklace in front.

The whole of the douar was out to witness our departure, the preparations for which were not a little delayed by the people crowding around us. We started at last from L'Uted, followed by a crowd of both sexes, with a fresh supply of necklaces and other curiosities; which, seeing I was really off, were offered at a much lower price, as may be concluded.

The appearance of the clouds induced me to expect a change of wind and fine weather for the rest of our journey. On leaving Mazora, we proceeded across the neighbouring downs until we came to a narrow valley running nearly north and south, and opening into the plain towards its southern extremity. The soil of this valley, which was cultivated, appeared tolerably rich, but, as usual, so deep and wet from the water lying on it, that we had great difficulty in getting our baggage through it. After crossing it, we again proceeded over a high tract of

downs in a S. W. direction, on which were large flocks of sheep and goats, both of a black colour, and from their similarity in other respects not very easy to be distinguished at first sight one from the other.

The morning being now fine, I took out my gun, and shot as we continued our way. As usual, there was abundance of the golden plover, and some few coveys of partridges. The country seemed tolerably inhabited, and I observed several Arab douars within a short distance of each other. These wild regions appeared to have been the residence in former years of numerous holy men, whose sepulchres we frequently passed. The sanctuaries (for criminals of every description find within them a safe refuge) are known by a clump of olive-trees, and occasionally a small wood when the celebrity of the interred saint is considerable. The little spots of vegetation that they present to the view are generally situated on eminences, and somewhat enliven the barren naked sides of the mountains; and whenever the traveller discerns at a distance a dark-green tuft of olive-trees, he may be certain of its being the tomb of one of these saints.

The wind had now got to the east, and the weather had cleared up so much, that we were in hopes of the sun again making its appearance to cheer us on our road. About noon we had

crossed the high downs on which we had been journeying, and came to a long and steep rugged descent, at the bottom of which a very extensive tract of desert plains lay stretched before us; these we now proceeded across in a S. W. direction. They are called Jahas el Rihan, or, The Myrtle Plains, from their being principally covered with this shrub. The part, however, where we entered upon them was too cold and wet for the myrtle, the soil being a dark peat earth, and the ground swampy and thickly covered with stunted bushes. Altogether the appearance of these plains was most dreary and uninviting, and by no means came up to the expectation that might be formed of them from their name. The gigantic forms of some camels belonging to some douar in the neighbourhood, and who were grazing at a short distance from us, added an air of solitary and desolate grandeur to the wildness of the view. Plover and snipes were in abundance, and the only birds to be seen. After proceeding for some time, the soil got drier, and the myrtle made its appearance, covering the ground in great luxuriancy, the bushes being thick and of three or four feet in height. Large tracts here and there had been burnt purposely, to fertilize the soil and produce an increase of herbage by causing fresh shoots to sprout for the sheep and goats which were browsing on them. On a rising

ground at a short distance we saw an Arab douar, consisting of numerous tents. Among the myrtle-bushes I observed the Barbary mouse in great numbers.

We now got clear of the plains; and on ascending an eminence of inconsiderable height, quite a new country opened itself to our view. Below us lay a wooded valley; and the opposite heights, the sides of which were steep, were thickly covered with wood, with a Moorish village peeping out at the top. To the south the eye looked over a large tract of forest, beyond which immense plains were bounded in the distance by a lofty range of mountains. We were now entering the woody country called Sahel*; and having descended and crossed a small stream we found ourselves surrounded by thick forest. The ground began to rise gradually from its commencement until it formed a narrow mountain ridge, scarcely a hundred yards in breadth in some parts, along which we pursued our way. The sides were steep and thickly wooded down to a deep ravine, from which another range of woody heights rose, presenting altogether the most picturesque view of the kind I had seen in Barbary. The narrow path through which we ploughed along was a deep

* Sahel signifies in Moorish, I believe, a woody tract of country.

sand, closely bordered by an impenetrable thicket of myrtle and arbutus: the latter was covered with its beautiful blossom, while the scarlet fruit, so tempting to the eye, still hung on the branches.

Not a living creature save ourselves was visible in this lonely forest, and I looked in vain for game or birds of any description: not even a twittering note from one of the feathered race animated the dreary silence that prevailed. I observed very recent traces of wild boars, the open spots as we advanced being quite ploughed up with their rootings. In some parts the forest had been burnt, and the blackened branches of the cork-tree presented a gloomy contrast to the lively green of the verdure that had already sprung up beneath. The high wooded ridge on which we were had continued to rise very gradually, and we had been winding our way along it for some hours when, reaching the borders, we emerged from its shades, and found ourselves on a heath, on the verge of which was a village. Here we intended to encamp for the night. On reaching it, we passed along a narrow shady lane, bordered on each side by hedges of cactus and lofty canes, forming a thick impenetrable fence to the gardens, which, from their appearance, seemed to be left to the wild luxuriant hand of Nature alone.

Having inquired the way to the house of the

scheik of the village, we proceeded thither, and were welcomed with kindness by a fine-looking old man, of commanding figure, and exhibiting a benevolence of countenance which very rarely softens the stern features of the Moor. His name was Sidi Absalom; and having shown us a dry convenient spot for pitching our tent, we unloaded the mules, and prepared our night quarters. Nothing could exceed the old man's kindness, or his endeavours to welcome the strangers who had arrived. A guard of several Moors was selected from his people; and having brought with them a small tent, they fixed it near our own.

In a very short time we had the whole of the village collected around us; and the natives seemed never satisfied with gazing at my tent, or the Christian within it. As for the things, such as the canteen, cups and saucers, knives and forks, with my dressing-case, and a variety of other small articles, they could not help expressing their surprise at the neatness of their appearance and manufacture. When, however, I showed them my rifles, fowling-pieces, and pistols, with their cases, fitted up with powder-horns, different shot-belts and pouches, steel chargers, screws, and a variety of ingenious modern contrivances to assist the sportsman, they were lost in wonder, which was almost turned into alarm

when they heard the effect of the detonating lock and the copper cap.

At the hour of tea my tent was completely filled with the scheik and a numerous party to partake of it; and if on their sides they testified their astonishment at every thing I showed them, I was no less amused in observing them. We sat afterwards conversing for some time; the alkaid relating a variety of scenes and adventures he had witnessed during his military career, and the others asking an endless variety of questions. A Christian had very rarely been seen there before, and it was therefore natural that my visit should be quite incomprehensible, and the occasion of my travelling; for my attendants told them I was neither a merchant nor a doctor, the latter of which they could hardly be persuaded that I was not. As for travelling from motives of curiosity alone, when the sultan of their own country could neither comprehend nor believe it, it was not to be expected that these simple rustics should find it more intelligible. The good old scheik could only express his astonishment by looking at me, and exclaiming every now and then, "How wonderful!" Being asked for snuff, I produced some of my best Tetuan, which very much delighted them. The Moorish snuff-boxes are simply made of pieces of cane three or four

inches in length, ornamented with different devices scratched in with a pointed knife while the bark is green, and stopped at each end with a cork. When they wish to take a pinch, a little is shaken out on the upper part of the thumb, and from thence dexterously injected by a quick motion of the hand into the nostrils.

The evening was ushered in with a most brilliant moonlight, and the weather appeared far more settled than it had been. The noise of dogs that seemed to be in chase, and the shouts of people, induced me to inquire the reason; and I found that the villagers were employed in driving back the wild boars, which, on the approach of evening, resort from the forest to the gardens in such numbers as to do considerable mischief. These animals, from their flesh not being eaten by the Mahometans, multiply so rapidly as to be a very serious nuisance, and the Moors are obliged in their own defence to drive them away or shoot them during the moonlight nights.

The scheik had not been gone very long when he returned, and begged as a favour that I would supply him with a small quantity of my green tea to entertain a great man, a talib from Fez, who was there on business: he also prayed me to accompany him with some of the wonders I had been exhibiting, in order that he might show them to his guest, who he said was a very

wise man. I accordingly attended him to his house, where I found a numerous party of respectable Moors seated on carpets in a small narrow room indifferently lighted, at the upper end of which was the Fez talib, who I could at once perceive by his dress and deportment was a Moor of the superior class. The office of a talib is partly civil and partly religious, being something of a divine as well as a lawyer. He is the expounder of their book of faith, the Koran; and by him all official acts are drawn up, none being valid without his signature. The talib, in short, is a person who, having received some little education, and being able to read and write—which accomplishments, particularly the latter, are very rare in Morocco—is of general utility, and on account of his comparative talents is regarded by these ignorant people with profound respect and consideration. When in company he is distinguished by his large rosary, the beads of which during the time that he remains sitting he keeps passing through his fingers. Among the various objects I now showed to the learned man in whose company I was sitting were the compass and a small pocket thermometer. Of the uses of the former instrument he appeared to have a confused kind of idea, which he was not backward in trying to impart to those around him; but as to the latter he could by no means comprehend the purpose

for which it was designed. It was however evident from his manner that, however he affected to appear the contrary, he was quite unacquainted with the greater part of the different things produced for his inspection; and that, however great his surprise in reality was, his pride would not allow him to manifest it.

I had not returned long to our tents, when the worthy scheik made his appearance, followed by two of his servants, each bearing a large dish of kouskousu for our suppers, with a jar of boiled wine which he called samet.

The weather continued favourable for continuing our journey the following morning, and we had not been long up when the friendly chief of the village sent us a dish of pancakes for breakfast; and a jar of wild honey, and shortly came himself to take leave of me, as he was obliged to attend early at a market, or sôk, a few miles distant. His tall commanding figure, with his white hayk around him, appeared to advantage on a fine-looking black steed with red housings, his long Moorish gun being slung at his saddle-bow.

We had received so much real kindness and attention from the old man, and he seemed to be of so benevolent a character, that I was quite sorry to part from him. Having made him a small present, he wished us a safe journey and

rode off, followed by several of his attendants on foot.

The tents were now struck, and the mules having been loaded, we proceeded on our journey, passing through the village, which was rather considerable. Near it was the burial-ground, in which a low column on a mound surrounded by a wall denoted the sepulchre of the village saint; some one who probably had lived respected and died lamented by the rustics of the place. As we passed by the luxuriant gardens, the young fruit of the cactus, which principally formed the hedges, had already attained a good size, whilst the old fruit of the preceding season still remained.

After leaving the village, we continued our way along the edge of the high table-land until it was terminated in a land-cape, the sides of which descended precipitately to the valley below. The view from this point was very fine. To the W. rolled the great Atlantic; while to the S. and S.W. the eye wandered across an expanse of forest and plain bounded by mountain ranges forming part of the ramifications of the Atlas Chain. A lofty insulated mountain, somewhat in the shape of a cone, was pointed out to me as the abode of the saint of Wazein*. This

* I have in my possession a holy taper of green wax, which was purposely brought down from Wazein to Tangier by the

saint, whose name is Sidi Hadge Alarbe, enjoys a very considerable degree of celebrity as well as power, being a kind of petty sovereign, and possessing a small principality and town, called Wazein, on the summit of this mountain, which no Christian is allowed to enter. We looked over the ancient town of Alkassar, situated in the plain at the foot of the mountains; and not far from it, on the banks of the Ouad el Mokhazen, the spot where the memorable battle was fought with the Moors in 1578, and in which Don Sebastian, King of Portugal, lost his life.

This young monarch had, from his earliest years, been animated by the most romantic ambition, and an ardent desire of propagating the Romish faith in foreign climes by the power of the sword—principles which were to be attributed, in connexion with the natural bent of his disposition, to those who had the charge of his education. It was with no small difficulty that he was persuaded to relinquish an enterprise he had meditated to India, and he then directed his views to Africa, and immediately commenced his preparations for an expedition thither. A favourable opportunity soon presented itself.

saint himself, and presented to Miss Simpson, daughter of the late American consul, as a mark of respect to the memory of her father; who, during his long residence in Morocco, succeeded in gaining the esteem of the Moors in a degree very unusual towards a Christian.

On the death of Abdallah, Sultan of Morocco, his son, Muley Mahomet, had usurped the throne, but which, after several unsuccessful battles, he was compelled to surrender to his uncle, Muley Moluc, brother to the deceased sultan, and rightful heir to the crown of Morocco. Mahomet now applied for assistance to Sebastian, who, readily listening to the tempting offer made him, engaged to espouse his cause, and to bring over an army for that purpose.

Sebastian in forming this expedition received considerable assistance both from Philip of Spain, his uncle, and from the Prince of Orange; and having completed his preparations, sailed with his troops for Africa in the summer of 1578, and landed them at Tangier and Arzilla, where Muley Mahomet joined him with his army. Muley Moluc during this time was not idle, and having collected together an army of 60,000, he advanced against his nephew and the King of Portugal. Sebastian had been strongly advised, on account of his great inferiority in numbers, not to risk a battle, but to keep within the intrenchments he had formed on the coast: rejecting however this prudent counsel, he left his camp, and not only proceeded into the interior to meet the enemy, but with his usual impetuosity and want of thought, advanced into the open plains of Alkassar, where the Moorish cavalry could be employed to the greatest advantage.

Muley Moluc did not neglect this oversight, and notwithstanding he was at the point of death from an inveterate disorder, which had at this period reduced him to the last extremity, he drew up his army, proceeded through the ranks in a litter, and having given the necessary instructions, gave up the command to his brother, and retired to await the event of the battle and of his own death, which was at hand, with fortitude and resignation.

The encounter now commenced, and the Portuguese infantry at first repulsed the Moors with great slaughter; while, however, they were improving the advantage they had gained, they were suddenly surrounded by the Moorish horse, very strong in number, who now attacked them on all sides. During this time the Portuguese cavalry had repulsed part of the Mahometan army, who were driven to the quarter where Muley Moluc was awaiting the event. Historians inform us that the brave Moorish prince, although in the arms of death, fired with indignation at the sight, threw himself out of his litter; and having, by the assistance of his attendants, got on horseback, he succeeded in rallying his flying troops. He was, however, speedily exhausted by this exertion, and being again conveyed to his litter, he quietly expired, not without an injunction to his attendants to keep his death a

secret until the battle was decided. The conflict was now continued with the greatest intrepidity, his troops believing that he was still a witness of their valour; and the Moorish cavalry from their numbers surrounding the enemy on all sides, quickly decided the day. Notwithstanding the havoc made by this attack, Sebastian still continued a most courageous and determined resistance, encouraging his troops and encountering the greatest dangers in the thickest of the fight. At length, having had three horses killed under him, and his standard-bearer being slain, he was left, attended only by three brave noblemen, Vimioso, Mascaregnas, and Tavora. The fight was still continued by these heroes, two of whom fell by the side of their rash but courageous young monarch, who at length was also slain.

Thus ended this chivalric but unfortunate enterprise; which, had the prudence been equal to the valour displayed, might have terminated very differently. The unfortunate King of Portugal's ally, Muley Mahomet, was drowned in making his escape, and Muley Hamet, the brother of Muley Moluc, succeeded to the throne. In this battle the flower of the Portuguese nobility, who had accompanied Don Sebastian, were slain.

At the extremity of the valley to the west-

ward was distinguished the town of Larache, the place of our destination, its white minarets and towers mingling with the foam of the ocean.

We now descended rapidly, passing down steep grassy slopes, covered with delightful verdure and straggling cork and oak trees, the latter of a larger size than I had before observed in Barbary. The softness of the climate, as we descended from the high land and approached the sea, was sensibly felt, and had a considerable influence on vegetation. The ground was covered with flowers; and with the warmth of the weather, the thermometer being nearly at seventy, one would have thought it the middle of spring instead of the winter season. Some distance to our left, on the ridge of an eminence, a high column was discernible, which I was informed by my attendants was a sanctuary. As we approached Larache, the slopes became more gentle, and covered with the palm-bush. From the distance we were now at, the town presented a striking and imposing appearance on a steep rising ascent, with its towers and mosques picturesquely breaking the horizon, and contrasted with the blue expanse of the ocean. Below us was the river Luccos, winding like a snake through the valley, and pursuing its sluggish way to Larache, where it unites its waters with those of the Atlantic. The course of this river,

as it approaches the sea, is remarkably sinuous, forming in one of its bends a complete horse-shoe, and again turning back at an angle for some distance in a line parallel with its former direction.

We now reached the banks of the river. These, on the side we were on, were high and precipitous; and passing over undulating sand-hills, which have spread themselves some distance from the shore inland, we finally halted just opposite the town, at the point where the ferry was, and close to the mouth of the river. The ferry-boat being upon the opposite side, a signal was made by the alkaid, and after some delay a boat of large size was slowly moved across; while in the mean time the whole of the baggage was unloaded, and, on its reaching the shore, was embarked along with the mules: the latter were not got on board without some difficulty, it being necessary to force them into the ferryboat by leaping. When this was accomplished, we steered for the other side with several women who had been waiting for a passage. The Luccos is here near half a mile in breadth, and it runs with some rapidity. The ferry, which was the first I had seen in the country, is not a very safe one, independent of the difficulties of embarking and disembarking. This is the case with the very few ferries that are to be met with in Morocco; as to bridges,

it may be imagined that they are not very numerous, the only one that I ever saw being a small one near old Tangier, formed, simply enough, by the mast of a large vessel which accidental circumstances had thrown in the way of the Moors. After reaching the opposite side, and landing the mules and baggage—a task which, in regard to the first, we had infinite trouble in accomplishing—we were obliged to remain on the jetty while the alkaid was despatched to the governor to acquaint him with my arrival, and ask his permission to enter the town.

On his return, leave having been granted, we proceeded with the whole of the cavalcade; and entering the gates, near which a considerable quantity of cannon-balls had been lying apparently for years, we proceeded through a narrow, ruinous street, and halted before a large, substantial, well-built, European-looking house, which the alkaid said the governor had appointed as my habitation: this I was informed had been in former years the abode of the Portuguese consul during the time that the Christian consuls resided at Larache.

Having entered by a pair of gates, which we quickly closed, in order to keep out the troops of curious prying Jews who had followed our steps, we found ourselves in a small patio or courtyard. In this we commenced unpacking

the baggage, having fastened the mules under cover of an open arcade. When we had done this, we proceeded to take possession of our new quarters. These we found in a most lamentable state. Having been uninhabited for so many years, all the doors and windows had been carried off; and the house being situated close to the water, the sea-breeze blew so strong through the desolate suites of rooms, that I foresaw I should gain nothing in point of comfort and warmth in exchanging the shelter of my snug tent for the forlorn and shattered dwelling I was now in. Having selected a small back room which was less exposed than the rest, I barricadoed the windows and doors as well as I could to keep out the wind and water, and, unpacking the bed, made the place as comfortable as circumstances would admit of.

The muleteers, and the rest of my party, took possession of a large adjoining chamber, the baggage, saddles, and the rest of the things, being deposited in an inner apartment. We had hardly arrived, when a Moor of respectability, and who was a scheeriff, a descendant of the prophet, having heard of our arrival, came to see the alkaid, with whom he was acquainted. Seeing the comfortless state my apartment was in, he returned home, and brought back with him a new carpet, which he himself spread by my bedside, and procured us also a

Jew to sweep away the dirt which overspread the floors: disinterested acts of kindness and benevolence are, fortunately for the traveller, neither confined to civilized nations nor to Europe, and I was already convinced that even the Moor was not incapable of them. After a couple of hours' work, we got the rooms into some kind of order; and I then strolled out to take a survey of the town, accompanied by the alkaid and the scheeriff, the latter of whom was named Sidi Mohammed Arabe.

CHAPTER III.

Description of the Town.—Its ruinous State.—Population.—Plentiful Supply of Kouskousu.—Way in which it is prepared and dressed.—How it is eaten by the Moors.—Quantity devoured by them.—Visit to the Governor.—Alcassaba.—Excursion into the Country.—Rock-pigeons.—Spot resorted to by Muley Soliman.—Gardens outside the Walls.—Profusion of Oranges.—Comfortless State of our Habitation.—Purchases made.—Silk and other Manufactures of Fez.—View from the Windows.—Harbour.—Distrust of the Moors.

EL LARAISH—or Larache, as it is called by Europeans—is a place of great antiquity, having been a Roman colony under the name of Lixa. It was taken by the Spaniards from the Moors in 1610, and recovered by Muley Ishmael in 1689; since which time it has remained in possession of the Moors. The town is situated on steep rising ground above the Luccos, which bathes its walls, immediately below which it flows into the Atlantic: it is defended by some small batteries and an inconsiderable fort, commanding the entrance of the harbour, above which is the borge or castle. The streets may be more properly called a collection of wretched, narrow lanes, unpaved, and winding along the

Larache.

steep, irregular surface of the hill. Half the town consists of tumble-down dwellings; and there is scarcely a single house in the place which is not cracked from top to bottom: —in short, Larache is in a state of ruin infinitely worse than Tetuan or Tangier. The only tolerable part of it is the market-place, the situation of which is high; it consists of an oblong square—from its architecture, evidently the work of Europeans. It is in a better state of repair than the rest of the town, and has rather a handsome appearance, from its being built with ranges of stone piazzas, which give it a look of regularity and neatness very uncommon in Moorish towns. Under these are the numerous small shops of the different trades; the dealers in groceries occupying one side of the square, while the opposite part is allotted to the petty traders in Moorish silks, hayks, slippers, and a variety of other commodities. At one extremity of the market-place is the fondak or caravanseray, the entrance to which is by a handsome Moorish arch; while at the other end is situated the alcassaba, the residence of the governor, as also of the sultan when he visits the place. Near it is a large handsome stone house, which the stranger quickly perceives, from its workmanship, is not of Moorish construction, and which was formerly the residence of the Dutch or American consul—I forget

which. It appeared to have suffered more from the ravages of man than time, being destitute of windows or doors, and quite open to the street. In the market-place I saw large quantities of the sweet acorn exposed for sale, and made a purchase of a basketful. This nut, the produce of the quercus esculus, is considerably larger and longer than the common acorn, its taste being sweet and pleasant, and a good deal like that of the Spanish chestnut. It is found in abundance in Spain I believe, as well as Barbary.

The view of Larache, as you approach it, is equally imposing and striking as Tangier or Tetuan, from its white clustered buildings, the tall slender minarets of the mosques, and the high broken line of the alcassaba; and, like the above towns, the illusive effect ceases the moment you enter its walls and see the ruin, filth, and wretchedness that they encircle. Looking down, however, upon the town, particularly from the lofty tower of the house in which we were lodged, the bird's eye of Larache is very striking; the buildings rising one above the other in a very picturesque manner, while the graceful Moorish arch of the different apartments around the patio of each house produces a pretty and varied effect.

The walls and fortifications of the town are in a most ruinous and dilapidated state, and, like

those of Tangier, instead of resisting an enemy's shot, would be tumbled down by the mere recoil of their own guns. In some places large portions of the walls have slid down entire without injuring the battlements, and have settled at a considerable angle without materially disturbing the perpendicular line of the wall. In this case the indolence of the Moors having merely caused the intervening breach to be built up, the slanting position of the battlements that have given way has a very ludicrous appearance.

At this period the fears that were general throughout Morocco of an attack from the Christian powers had caused some little activity, and two small batteries had been recently erected, commanding the river; one of which, with five embrasures, but without guns, was close to the place at which we had landed*.

* Contemptible as the place is in regard to its strength, the Austrians lately sustained a defeat, which must have been as mortifying to them under the circumstances, as elating to the arrogant Moors. It appears from the account of this affair furnished me by Mr. Price, the vice-consul at Tetuan, and communicated to him by Mr. Webster, who happened to be there during the attack, that the Austrians, who, for some reason or other, had declared war against the sultan, appeared before Larache with two ships of war with the view of destroying the whole of the imperial fleet, in the shape of two small brigs already mentioned in the foregoing pages, and which were lying moored close to the high banks of the Luccos, in a very snug and secure spot. The Austrian squadron having de-

I could obtain no satisfactory account of the population of Larache, but suppose it to be a good deal inferior to that of Tangier. I was indeed informed that it amounted to three thousand; but I soon found out that this number, which may perhaps be correct as far as it goes, comprised only the male Mahometans, and did not include their own women and children, or the Jews, all of whom, I was told, go for nothing

spatched their boats, the men were landed; and having crossed the narrow neck of land at the mouth of the river, they proceeded to execute the object of their visit. This was not accomplished, when the Arabs collected in such force as to render it advisable to retreat to their boats; and before they could get on board, and out of reach of their pursuers, many of their number fell into the hands of the Arabs, and were immediately decapitated on the beach. The Jews were the only persons whose services were put in requisition for this purpose; the Moors compelling them, in addition, to salt the heads the same evening, in order that they might be in a fit state for the imperial inspection. Twenty-two heads having been thus carefully pickled, were forwarded to the sultan, at Mequinez, who, having rejected one head as having belonged to a drowned man, and not having been fairly killed in battle, admitted the remaining twenty-one as legitimate trophies of this great victory. In commemoration of this event, seven days' rejoicing were commanded throughout the city of Mequinez; and a liberal sum of money was distributed among the inhabitants of Larache. The Austrian squadron consisted of a frigate, a corvette, and a brig; the number of boats employed for the occasion being eleven. The Moorish vessels, the object of the attack, sustained but little damage; and neither the town nor the fortress were at all injured.

with the Moors, and, on that account, are never included in their calculations. This was evidently the case, for, when I pressed them upon this head, they seemed quite puzzled, and at a loss even for a guess what their numbers might amount to. With regard to the Jews, I learnt afterwards that there were about fifty Jewish families in the town, chiefly in a state of great wretchedness and indigence from there being no trade. These people occupy the lower part of the town adjoining the walls, while the upper is inhabited by the Moors.

On our return, two other Moors of respectability who were acquainted with the alkaid came to pay me a visit, and, with the scheeriff, lived almost entirely with us during the time I remained at Larache. I had as yet made no provision for dinner, when a couple of servants from the governor entered, bearing between them an immense dish of kouskousu, at the sight of which the eyes of all glistened with satisfaction, particularly those of my attendants, who reckoned upon coming in for their share. Having dismissed the servants with a present to each, we seated ourselves on the ground and fell to work on the enormous bowl before us, which, being a party of five—including the scheeriff, the alkaid, myself, and two other Moors, all with tolerable appetites—we were not long in seeing the bottom of. I had already made a

very good dinner, when a Moor entered, carrying a second capacious dish of kouskousu, as a present from the collector of the customs, a stately and dignified looking personage, and who possessed, I was told, great influence in the place: having also feed the bearer of this second present according to the custom of the country, down we sat again.

This fresh supply was any thing but a scanty one, for it was sufficient alone to have dined six men with ordinary appetites, though, to my companions, it seemed a mere thimbleful, judging from the ease and quickness with which it was conveyed down their throats. We had scarcely finished it when a third dinner of the same dish made its appearance from the worthy scheeriff's own kitchen. It was absolutely necessary to taste this in order to avoid an affront, he being at table with us. As for the rest of my companions, their previous fare seemed to have had scarcely any effect upon them, and they shared the third bowl along with the muleteers with evident relish. An interval of half an hour then occurred, when, to my great astonishment, another mess, which was like Benjamin's in quantity, entered the house, a present likewise from one of my visitants at table. For my own part, and much as I felt the compliment, I was obliged to cry out mercy, as I could not have eaten another spoonful to have

obliged my dearest friend. I therefore gave up the contest, and left my companions to choke themselves with the new comer, which they proceeded to do with infinite alacrity and despatch. Without tiring the reader further, I shall only observe that in this manner half a dozen enormous dishes of kouskousu made their appearance, with short breathing intervals between each, and were devoured by my Mahometan guests and attendants with such good-will, that scarcely enough was left for a little Jew boy whom I had engaged to attend upon us. When supper was finished, my guests vented their satisfaction at the good cheer they had been enjoying in loud windy eructations; which, though not the most delicate thing in the world, they are proud of doing, as it indicates a full stomach, and is besides intended as a kind of compliment to the master of the feast for his hospitality. In this light it appears to be considered by the Persians as well as Moors; for Major Keppel in his travels observes, that eructation "is reckoned in Persia the greatest proof of politeness, as it intimates a compliment to the host's good cheer." The word kouskousu has occurred so frequently in the foregoing pages, that I shall now explain the composition of what is to the Moor the same as the olla is to the Spaniard, or macaroni to the Italian—namely, a standing dish.

The kouskousu, or the finely granulated paste which is the principal ingredient of the dish called by the Moors kouskous, is made from the semola or heart of the Barbary wheat, which is both the finest and hardest part of the grain. The semola is obtained by the grain being passed loosely through the mill; by which means the heart, or inside, remains more entire and in coarser particles, resembling in feel and appearance sand of a light straw-colour. This is the semola, and is separated by the sieve from the finer flour. The kouskousu is afterwards prepared in the following manner—a quantity of semola, fine flour, water, sieves of different fineness, and a large wooden bowl, being necessary for making it:—A small quantity of semola is first put into the bowl, and two or three spoonfuls of water being thrown over it, it is worked about for some time with both hands in a circular direction. It is then sifted two or three times, a little more water and also of the semola being added between each sifting. By this time a portion of it has become divided into grains of the requisite size, about that of a small shot; and the granulated part is then separated from the semola which has not yet become so, a small quantity remaining after each sifting of the grains which are too large to pass the sieve. This is the kouskousu, and is put by itself. The semola that falls into

the bowl after each sifting being added to by fresh, with the addition of a spoonful or two of water, and being worked round with the hands, the whole of it intended to be made into kouskousu is worked up in this manner, and becomes granulated by repeated siftings into small grains of fine paste, but still irregular in size. It is then passed once or twice through the sieve, to separate it from any lumps that may have formed by its sticking together; and handfuls of flour are incorporated with it, it being worked with the hands as before, a little water added, and passed through the sieve on the addition of each handful.

If it is intended that a portion of the kouskousu should be very fine, more flour is added to a part of it, and it is oftener worked round and sifted. The whole of it is then passed through sieves of different fineness (the lumps which have been put aside having been reduced into grains the same as the rest), and it is divided into kouskousu of two or three different degrees of fineness, as may be required. It is then spread on linen cloths, and dried in the open air with great care; as, if not properly dried, it will run into a soft paste when dressed. When dried, the grains are of a pale colour, hard, and will keep good for a considerable period: mixed with the grain of alholba they become of a yellow colour. This is done more particularly

when the Moorish women wish to fatten themselves. A very fine kind of kouskousu is made by mixing sugar with the semola, which is eaten boiled up with milk and butter, forming a very good kind of hasty pudding: it is at other times simply boiled, and eaten with a little cinnamon mixed with it. The sieves made use of by the Moors in the preparation of the kouskousu are of parchment, pierced with small holes.

The dish called kouskous' is a stew surrounded by the kouskousu, the preparation of which has been just described, and which is dressed as follows:—Part of the quantity sufficient to make a dish is put into a small wooden bowl, or other vessel, the bottom of which is pierced with small holes, and which must be placed so as to cover closely an earthen pot or pan, with a narrowish mouth, filled with hot water, and placed on a chafing-dish, or on a hot hearth. The Moors use for this purpose a square kind of pot of unburnt earth, bound round with iron, and containing lighted charcoal; and in this kind of vessel their cookery is in general performed. As the steam penetrates, more of the kouskousu is added, until the necessary quantity is heated, which will take near three quarters of an hour for a good-sized dish, as, if it be not done gradually and with great care, the grains will adhere together in a

mass, and although they may have been perfectly well dried, the dish is in this case quite spoilt. In this the nicety of the operation consists. When properly dressed, each grain of the kouskousu should be easily separated from the rest. When sufficiently steamed it is put into the kouskousu-dish, which is a kind of high bowl on a stand, with a cover at top. It is then mixed with a small quantity of the gravy from the stew, a little fresh butter is added, and it is ranged high around the dish, leaving only a cavity in the centre, in which the stew is placed. The kouskousu is then heaped about it so as to fill the dish, and three or four hard-boiled eggs are placed whole at the top, sprinkled with powdered cinnamon, and it is ready for the table. The stew is made of fowls, pigeons, or mutton, but generally the first, dressed in a saucepan with sliced onions, pepper, salt, and a little saffron.

Having in propriâ personâ gone through the whole of the above processes in the preparation of kouskousu, and which occupies a considerable time, I can vouch for their accuracy. I have entered more into detail from its being a most excellent dish, deserving to be generally known; possessing the good qualities of being highly nutritious and easy of digestion, extremely palatable to the taste, and can be partaken of for a great length of time without a person

becoming tired of it: a gourmand would also not think less highly of it on finding that a prodigious quantity can be conveniently admitted into the stomach at one sitting. The stew is not an indispensable part, as it is extremely good without it, simply dressed with milk.

It is a most amusing sight to see a party of Moors at work, engaged in a repast of this kind. These grave beings, as soon as the bowl of kouskous is placed before them, and a carpet spread, seat themselves on the ground in a circle round it and commence operations, having first turned up their loose sleeves to be more at liberty, and pronouncing a brief grace in the word "Bismallah," which signifies "In the name of God." The Moors, like the Mahometans in general, do not make use of knives and forks, but employ their fingers at their meals, always eating with their hand; and the manner in which they employ it shows that it is equally efficacious and expeditious as a spoon when a large dish of kouskous is before them. Compressing their fingers together to answer the purpose of the former, they thrust their hand into the very heart of the dish, and return it loaded with a plentiful supply of the grain; then having trimmed it a little by weighing it in their fingers to let the superfluous parts fall back into the dish, they convey or rather jerk it into their mouths with

such dexterity that the hand does not come in contact with the mouth. Having dived a second time into the bowl, they perhaps fish up a portion of a fowl, which they will divide with their next neighbour, dismembering the part by each pulling at it: they are in the habit also of helping the stew by throwing pieces of it across to each other.

The quantity of kouskousu that a Moor is capable of consuming is quite incredible; and two or three of them will not only attack and devour a dish that requires to be borne by two persons, but will continue eating at intervals for hours together, or, indeed, as long as it is brought to them. When a dish of kouskousu is sent by the sultan, a bashaw, or other great man, to a person to whom it is intended to show particular marks of friendship and respect, it is sometimes so capacious as to equal a common table in size, and requires four or five men to support it; and I heard of one that was sent as a present a few years since to one of the Christian consuls at Tangier, that was of such enormous dimensions that the bearers of it had the greatest difficulty in getting it in at the door of the house. So much for kouskousu, which is almost the first thing that runs in the stranger's ears when he finds himself in Morocco; and is one of the very few objects that engages the attention of a Moor.

Having despatched presents of tea and sugar to those who had so plentifully crammed us, among whom were the kaid or governor of the town, and the collector, to both of whom I had been furnished with recommendatory letters by the bashaw of Tangier, I proceeded, accompanied by the scheeriff and the alkaid, to pay a visit to the former, and found him leaning against the gates of the alcassaba. The governor, who was attired in a dirty hayk, under which was a scarlet kaftan, was nearly black, with a bad expression of countenance; and I thought him as ill looking a fellow as ever I had beheld. He received me in a very gruff surly manner; and eyed me with such a suspicious look that I had no doubt but that the bad character I had acquired at Tangier had preceded me. The interview was short and not very agreeable; and having signified my wish to take a walk outside the town, permission was given very reluctantly, and an officer as black as himself ordered to accompany me, both as a guard and a spy upon my proceedings. I found out that this man had received positive orders from the governor only to allow of my proceeding in certain directions, and on no account to approach the fort or batteries at the entrance of the harbour.

We passed through the alcassaba, which presented an ancient and ruinous appearance. The

part of it which is the residence of the sultan when he visits Larache, and is at other times occupied by the governor, seemed in better repair than the other parts, and was rather striking from a richly ornamented Arabesque arch which formed the entrance to it. Having proceeded through several gloomy archways and dark passages which supported buildings in a most tottering state, we came to the gates of the castle, towards the west, and passing them found ourselves outside the wall, and in the cheerful light of day. Below the borge, which I was allowed merely a glimpse of, was a battery; and beyond it a small fort, in appearance in tolerable condition. We continued our walk along the cliffs, which are rather steep and of some height, though much worn by the violence of the ocean from their soft sandstone nature. As we passed we disturbed large flocks of the rock pigeon, which a good deal resembles the common dovecote pigeon, though rather smaller and somewhat of a paler blue. The town on this side is quite hidden; but the borge and the lofty embattled walls of the alcassaba present a picturesque appearance: the latter are mounted with a few guns of a small calibre to repel any sudden attack of the wild tribes.

At the distance of about a mile from the town we came to the remains of an ancient building which appeared to have been a fort. Part of the

wall only remains, but this seems quite indestructible from the nature of the cement or stucco which binds it together. Below it and nearer the cliff is a small circle of stones, piled round to denote the place where, as I was told by the guard who attended me, the last sultan, Muley Soliman, when at Larache, was in the habit of sitting of an evening to enjoy the sea view, which, from this point, is fine, the line of coast here taking a bend, and being visible for some distance to the southward. This sultan, which is very rarely the case in Morocco, was a good deal respected by his subjects; and this spot has in consequence been converted into a kind of sanctuary out of regard to his memory, each person adding a stone who passes by the place. We had proceeded but a short distance beyond it when the alkaid said he had the governor's order not to allow my proceeding any further in the direction we were going, as we were now in the open bush-country, which was unsafe on account of the Arab tribes who inhabit it. We therefore directed our steps across a wild open tract, thinly covered with low shrubs, towards the gardens on the outside of the town. Observing the turf disturbed in several places, as if for the purpose of digging up some root or plant, I inquired of my attendants the cause of it, and was informed that it was to procure a root called tasserint, the use of

which, however, I could not then learn. I found out, however, afterwards, that it is employed in washing hayks and woollen stuffs; and that being collected and dried it forms an article of some considerable trade, being found in abundance at Rabat, Morocco, and other parts towards the south. It is also, I believe, used by the Moorish women for the purpose of rendering themselves plump; and is sometimes mixed with the kouskousu for this purpose. The root is something like horseradish.

The gardens, which extend for some distance round Larache, are wild and luxuriant, producing abundance of figs, pomegranates, and oranges: the latter, in particular, are remarkably fine, and are equal in flavour and size to those of Tetuan. Our walk having made the party rather thirsty, we entered a large garden, which had formerly belonged to a Moor of rank, but was now run to ruin. The appearance of the grounds in general, and of a shattered alcove, still showed some marks of the care that had once been bestowed upon them. Several of these gardens are very prettily situated on the slope of the hills which falls to the valley, and in which the Luccos winds along. The orange-trees, which almost equalled our forest-trees in dimensions, were completely gilded with the greatest profusion of beautiful tempting fruits; and for a small present of about fourpence, I was

allowed to pick near 150 of the finest oranges I ever saw; these lasted me not only during the remainder of my journey, but some time afterwards. They were of a most delicious flavour, their skins being as fine and thin as the smallest pot-orange.

On my return to the town, having dismissed the officer with a present, we paid a visit to some of the Moorish shops in the market-places; and having looked at some of their silk goods, which their owners seemed very lazy and indifferent about selling, we returned to our quarters, followed by a troop of Moorish boys, the most impudent of whom were blacks, who kept hooting the Christian in spite of the presence of the alkaid, and notwithstanding I had put on a Moorish jelibea to render my European appearance rather less conspicuous.

The wind had now changed to the west, and brought with it a heavy rain the following day. Our habitation was any thing but air and water tight; and the rain, beating in from the absence of windows, rendered the front rooms, which were exposed to the sea, comfortless and almost uninhabitable. Fortunately the wind got round again to the east, and brought with it finer weather.

The complexion of the Moorish population at Larache struck me as darker than I had observed either at Tetuan or Tangier, and there

appeared to be a more general mixture of the negro-blood. I observed several black slaves of both sexes, who were generally well looking, although their features essentially differed from those of the Moors. These slaves, who are met with in all parts of Morocco, are brought from Soudan and other parts of the interior; they are a lively, thoughtless, and contented race, totally different in character from the stern and bigoted Moor, to whom they are of essential service in performing a thousand menial occupations, which idleness and pride prevent their own people from doing.

Wishing to make some purchases of Moorish silks of the Fez manufacture, my desire was no sooner known among the Jewish fraternity than the house was besieged with them; and a great part of the day was occupied in inspecting their different goods and in bargaining with them; for these gentlemen, hearing that I was an Englishman, were quite as moderate in their demands as their brethren of Tangier, and asked most unconscionable sums for their commodities; until, finding that I was not unacquainted with their real value, they relaxed so much in their demands that eventually I was the purchaser of rather a considerable stock at a tolerably moderate price. The silk manufactures of Fez, during the dominion of the Moors in Spain, were established at Grenada in the quarter of the Albayzin, and

had obtained so great a celebrity from their excellence as to be exported to all parts of the east; having been transferred afterwards to Fez, at the period of the final overthrow of the Moorish empire. Although the manufacture has doubtless fallen off greatly, and languishes in common with every thing else in Morocco, yet still it exhibits a degree of excellence which one is surprised to meet with in this country. The colours, which are generally red, blue, lilac, and yellow, are exceedingly brilliant and good; and it would be worth while to ascertain, which I had intended to endeavour to do, had I reached Fez, by what means they are produced. The articles manufactured are chiefly handkerchiefs, scarfs, sashes, &c. Among the other manufactures of Fez which show the most ingenuity and workmanship may be mentioned hayks, embroidered cushions, Morocco-leather slippers, red and yellow, velvet slippers worked in gold, guns, daggers, spurs, sadlery, horse accoutrements and housings.

The manufacture of woollen hayks is extensive—as it is indeed in many parts of the country, from the general demand for the article: those made, however, at Fez, show a great degree of excellence and superiority. The most expensive are of a texture as fine as gauze: others are woven with a mixture of silk, and are by no means inelegant in appearance.

Among the different kind of hayks worn by the men is one of a softer and more pliable texture, distinguished by the name of the kouskousu hayk, from the outside of the stuff being wove into minute knots resembling the grains of kouskousu.

The carpet manufactures form no inconsiderable branch of the trade in Morocco; there is scarcely an individual, even of the poorest classes, who does not possess a tolerable carpet, on which he sits during the day, serving him very frequently also for a couch at night; they are generally oblong in shape, suitable to the rooms, which are narrow. The Rabat carpets are considered the best, and I have seen some which appeared to me to be equal to the Turkey carpets in pattern and colours, and, at the same time, considerably softer and pleasanter: in durability they are probably much inferior.

Otto of roses may be had very good at Fez; though when it gets into the hands of the Jews it is much adulterated. When pure it appears thick, as if congealed, and if dropped on white paper will not be visible when dry; whereas if it be mixed with oil the paper will remain soiled.

The earthenware of Fez, of which I was enabled to meet with several very curious specimens, deserves a notice among the manufactures of that city. It consists chiefly of kouskous dishes

and covers, bowls, jugs, &c., the patterns of which are showy and handsome, sometimes not inelegant, and the colours good. The ware is coarse, and in some of the articles the glazing is very tolerable, while others appear without any, and as if heat had not been employed to fix the colours: the red, in particular, in some does not seem to have been burnt in, but to have been dropt on afterwards like sealing-wax (which it resembles a good deal) according to the pattern required.

The windows of our house looked immediately above the river, not far from the bar, and commanded a delightful land as well as sea view, with the opposite sands bordering the shore, along which parties of Arabs with their lengthened train of camels could be seen slowly filing their way towards the ferry, and imparting a truly African character to the scene. The Luccos, winding through the rich valley from Alkassar as it approaches Larache, divides itself into two branches, which sweep the surrounding chain of hills, and unite again at the town. The river is here of considerable breadth, the narrowest part being under the walls, where it runs into the ocean. Beyond this, and below a small fort, is the bar, which of itself, from the difficulty and danger of passing it, is no inconsiderable protection to the town. The harbour, though difficult to enter, is considered the safest port

in Morocco, and in the winter season is generally the rendezvous of some of the small ships of war belonging to the sultan. It is probable, however, that in a few years the constant accumulation of sand will quite block up the entrance of the river, and render Larache useless as a port. As it is, however, vessels of tolerable burthen can enter when the wind is fair, and lie quite sheltered a short distance up the river in a considerable depth of water, with an anchor ashore.

I had no reason to think that the account of the destruction of the Mahometan fleet at Navarino had yet reached Larache: if it had, I probably should have found it necessary to have left it sooner than I did. I ascertained, however, that I was an object of very great suspicion among the Moors; and it was universally believed, coupled with previous intelligence from Tangier, that I was a spy sent to take plans of the country and coast previous to an attack of the Christian powers. One circumstance will show the great distrust, and even alarm, that my appearance caused at this period. It will be recollected, that on my arriving at L'Uted, the scheik of the place was not to be met with; and I found out by accident, during my stay at Larache, that as soon as he was informed of my arrival, he took horse, and, without stopping, set off to Larache, where he proceeded with the intelligence to the governor that a Christian

had reached the interior of the country, the same important news being afterwards forwarded express to Arzilla. It appeared also that the governor, whose name was Kador, had sent for the friendly scheeriff, and reproved him severely for having accompanied me in the walk I had taken the evening of my arrival at Larache, saying it was very wrong to show a Christian the country and places of the Moors, and cautioning him not to do so again.

Whatever jealousy the kaid might entertain of me, it must be confessed that he was not inattentive to my comfort as far as regarded a well-supplied table every day. During my stay, the different dishes of kouskousu made their appearance regularly as before described, and relieved me from any fears of starving. Were I not afraid of being tedious, I might dilate on the famous tea-drinkings I entertained the Moors with every evening, the enormous quantity of sugar that they devoured, the looks of rapture with which they regarded my small cases of fine green tea, and the still more inexpressible delight with which they slowly conveyed this precious beverage down their throats cup after cup, and accompanied with long and deep-drawn sups to prolong the pleasure of its taste.

CHAPTER IV.

Departure from Larache.—Passage of the Luccos.—Encamp in the Afternoon.—Shooting.—Inattention of the Scheik.—Anger of the Alkaid in consequence.—Start early in the Morning.—Reach the Sea-shore.—Mussulman Gravity.—Features of the Coast.—Sanctuary.—The Nautilus.—Leave the Coast.—Commencement of bad Weather.—Arrive at Arzilla.—Received into the House of a Jew.—Visit from the Saint of Arzilla.—Tea-drinking.—Interchange of Presents.—Inhabitants.—Present of black Loaves from the Saint.—Tea-pot carried off by the holy Man.—Leave Arzilla.—Waad el Rife River.—Garbia.—Difficulties of crossing the Rivers.—Encamp on the Banks of the Mechra el Hachef.—Altercation.—Enabled to cross the River the following Morning.—Parties on the Road.—Arrival at Tangier.

THE strict surveillance to which I was subjected, and the existing circumstances, did not render my residence at Larache particularly agreeable at this period; and having remained there a sufficient time to satisfy my curiosity, I determined upon leaving it. I had intended to proceed further than this place, had not the commencement of the rainy season put a stop to my plans, and rendered it a matter of uncertainty whether I should find the rivers sufficiently fordable to allow even of my returning to Tangier. The appearance of the weather

was very ominous, and I therefore made up my mind to set off without further delay. Having accordingly laid in a stock of provisions, sent notice to the governor of our intended departure, and packed up the baggage, which had received rather a considerable addition from the earthenware I had purchased, we sallied forth from Larache with little sorrow, I must confess, on my part. Our friend the scheeriff and several of the Moors who had been in the habit of visiting us, accompanied us to the ferry, where we experienced even greater difficulties than before in getting our animals into the boat; some of them being fairly lifted in by two herculean Moors, who were the ferrymen: one of these, in particular, was of extraordinary strength and stature. Owing to the passage boat being crowded, and the carelessness of the muleteers in not holding their beasts, the little mule on which I rode became restive, and jumped overboard while we were yet at some distance from the shore; fortunately its head was turned in that direction, and the animal swam to land without injury.

We had started so late, and our passing the river had occupied so much time, that we found it would be impossible to reach the spot where we had intended to encamp, and we therefore directed our course to a small village near the banks of the Luccos, which we reached

early in the afternoon. I was quite delighted, after the miserable accommodation we had met with at Larache, to enjoy again the independent comfort and quiet of my tent. As it was not late I took my gun, and, accompanied by the son of the scheik of the village, beat through the gardens and small enclosures belonging to it, in which we sprang some partridges, and found plenty of rabbits. The village or shar, as it is termed in Moorish, where we were encamped, was pleasantly situated on the rise of the hills we had descended from Sahel, and commands a striking view of Larache, with a peep of the ocean at the opening of the river, and the broad fertile valley, with the Luccos meandering through it. At sunset, the village muedden proclaimed, as usual, the hour of prayer, and my people made their customary evening prostrations. When a Christian witnesses the devotion and exactness with which the Mussulman attends to his religious duties, he cannot help feeling an inward sense of shame, particularly when he hears the question, which is not unfrequently put to him, whether Christians ever pray? Among the wildest of the mountain tribes, and in the smallest Arab encampment, the different hours of prayer throughout the day are announced and observed with the most scrupulous punctuality.

My party had not received that attention

from the scheik of this village which had been experienced elsewhere; he had not even come out to receive us, and it was not till two hours had elapsed that we could procure any barley for the mules. These circumstances had not contributed to put the alkaid into a better humour than usual, and when supper time came, and his favourite dish of kouskous no longer made its evening appearance, the old man was bursting with sullen anger.

Fortunately the supply of provisions that I had laid in at Larache was too plentiful to allow us to feel the loss of it in any great degree, and we had nearly supped when, in consequence of an intimation having been given to the scheik of the probable effects of the alkaid's displeasure, a dish of kouskousu was brought to the tent. "Better late than never," was the maxim of all parties, except the alkaid, who now openly reproached the scheik in the bitterest terms for the manner in which he had dared to treat an officer of the sultan, and threatening to report his behaviour to the higher authorities. It happened that the kouskousu was made of barley flour, instead of wheat, and he was now sharply attacked by the muleteer for bringing them so coarse a dish. As for the alkaid, notwithstanding the humble entreaties of the scheik that he would eat of his dish, and overlook what had occurred, he would not taste of it. It was, how-

ever, finished by the rest of the party; and, although of coarser material, it was by no means bad. I found now, what I had not been aware of, that every soldier, when employed in the service of the sultan, must be supplied with corn for his horses, and food and lodging for himself by the inhabitants of every village or douar he may chance to stop at.

As it was my intention to pursue my way to Arzilla along the sea-shore, both on account of seeing the features of the coast, and also with the hope of meeting with some specimens of the beautiful nautilus shell, it was necessary to start very early, on account of the tide. We were up, accordingly, long before it was light, and morning had not yet dawned when we left the village, and plodded on through a deep sand until we reached the open bush country; after crossing which, we descended into a narrow deep valley thickly clothed with various shrubs and evergreens, on which was hanging in graceful festoons the beautiful white clematis.

We were now close to the coast, and the first streaks of light had just appeared in the east when we reached the sea-shore, and proceeded along the fine sands, from which the waves were fast retreating. The morning was chill and lowering, and, as we pursued our silent way, the murmuring of the surge, and the mournful cry of the sea fowl, added to the melancholy wildness

of the scene. While the Spanish muleteer beguiles his lengthened march with his irregular melodies, the Moor journeys on with the characteristic gravity of the Mahometan, and utters scarcely a single word for miles. Our lonely journey was now somewhat cheered by the welcome rays of the sun, which appeared above the horizon and lighted up the dark waste of ocean. As the tide was far out, I dismounted, and, with my gun in hand, proceeded on foot in quest of wild fowl and sea birds. The western coast of Morocco is generally a fine smooth sand, with so gentle a descent that a trifling depth is only attained at a considerable distance from the shore, and on this account it is most dangerous to navigators. No sight can be more beautiful or striking than, while this immense body of water is hushed and it is a perfect calm, to see its swelling lines advancing from a great distance in uniform succession towards the shore, impelled forward by an invisible power, until, rearing itself into a lofty and magnificent curl of several miles in length, it suddenly breaks into a tremendous and irresistible surf.

As we proceeded, I found the features of the coast flat and dreary, altogether destitute of boldness, and presenting a contrast to the magnificent mountain cliffs I had been accustomed to on the coast of Lapland. Here the sea barrier consisted of low rounded hills, partly covered

with the sand that had been blown up from the shore, or of cliffs of fine clay-slate of inconsiderable height. After having proceeded a few miles we came to a sanctuary, which stood on rising ground close to the shore; there was a small garden and habitation adjoining it, but no appearance of inhabitants. The Moors alighted to offer up their prayers, and after halting for a few minutes, we continued our way. The coast here assumed an appearance somewhat bolder; and a projecting headland prevented our further progress along the shore. We were obliged in consequence to make our way up the sloping cliffs, by a steep and dangerous track, which the mules found such difficulty in scrambling up with their heavy loads, that the greatest care was necessary to prevent their losing their balance, and going over the sides. We proceeded for a short distance along a level bush country, when we followed a sheltered valley covered with luxuriant shrubs, and again reached the sea-shore.

I had been in hopes, according to the report I had heard at Tangier, of finding the nautilus in abundance. In this, however, I was disappointed, and I did not meet with a trace of it; indeed scarcely a shell of any description was visible. The beautiful argo, or paper nautilus, is a species of the argonauta, and is found chiefly between Cape Spartel and Cape Malabat, on

the Barbary coast during the winter season, and mostly after northerly and easterly gales. They are, very rarely, found on the European side of the Straits, though, on my return to Gibraltar, I heard of one that had been recently picked up on a part of the rock. It may be supposed that so delicate a shell as that of the argo, and which is like silver paper in appearance and almost as fine in its texture, is peculiarly liable to fracture from the boisterous nature of the element of which it is a native. When an accident of this kind happens, the little animal shows his skill as a shipwright, in ingeniously strengthening and repairing his shattered bark by a peculiar process, of which I have seen more than one example among the specimens I have met with. The animal is very wary, and it is not an easy thing to intercept it on the surface, as, on the least alarm, it tilts its shell aside, and both vessel and crew go to the bottom, and are so quickly imbedded in the sand as to elude search or pursuit. When our little sailor wishes to appear again at the top, he expels the water from his shell, so as to render it lighter than the surrounding fluid, and then rises to the surface, where he makes use of a thin membrane, with which he is furnished, for a sail, employing at the same time his feelers as oars. The nautilus appears only in very calm weather on the surface; and it is then that this little fairy navi-

gator, mounting from the bottom of the deep to the world above, is occasionally seen hoisting the sail of its frail silvery bark, and, catching the warm African zephyr, scuds like a snow-white feather along the bosom of the main.

Little occurred to vary the scene along these lonely coasts; and while the country seemed quite uninhabited and without a vestige of man, the wide waste of ocean before us was equally desert, without even the white gleam of a distant sail to carry the mind to some happier shores. The eastern sky became now overcast; and we urged on our beasts in expectation of bad weather. The shores became more rocky; and the projecting cliffs again impeding our passage, we once more ascended by a narrow winding track, and pursued our way as fast as we could over wild tracks of moor, where no signs of animal life appeared, except an occasional flight of the whistling plover across the waste. In spite of the haste we made, the pelting storm overtook us, and continued until we again got sight of the coast, and to my great satisfaction the lofty palm trees and towers of Arzilla appeared. The date or palm tree, although it is not very common in the northern parts of Morocco, adds much to the peculiar character of African scenery when its solitary tufted head is seen at a distance, towering above the crumbling walls of a Moorish town. As we approached the

gardens at a short distance from the walls, we entered a long sandy lane bordered by hedges, which were covered by the common bramble in such luxuriance, that I might have almost fancied myself in an English lane, if the occasional sight of an olive tree and the prickly cactus had not reminded me that I was in a southern land.

We were now close to the town of Arzilla, and entered by a lofty massive tower, under the gateway of which some Moors were sitting, and among them a venerable-looking old man meanly clad. On approaching him, I was surprised to see the alkaid and the rest of the Moors alight, and, running up to him, kiss his garments. I was soon informed, in answer to my inquiries, that this was the great saint of Arzilla, Sidi Mohammed Ben Marzoug, of whom I had previously heard a good deal. The old man, on being informed I was a Christian, bade me welcome with more kindness of manner than I could have expected, and promised to pay me a visit. We advanced into the town, and after passing through several narrow winding streets, the wretched appearance of which was not a little increased by the torrents that were falling, we reached the house of a Jew to whom I had a letter, men, beasts, and baggage deluged with the storm.

It had been my intention to encamp within the walls of the alcassaba or castle, which

is very considerable, and where I should have been both out of the reach of the insults of Mahometans and free from the intrusion of the children of Israel. The rainy weather, however, disordered this plan, and I was glad to get myself and baggage under more substantial cover than a tent afforded, and in any place, however wretched; for the appearance of the weather induced me to fear we should be detained some time where we now were. The Jew, whose name I have forgotten, and who appeared a worthy and most obliging person, received me with the greatest kindness and willingness. His habitation consisted but of three narrow rooms, clean and neatly white-washed, on the ground floor, and opening into a small patio or court, to which the entrance door formed the fourth side. These apartments were so confined that two of them were completely filled with myself and baggage, the latter of which had swelled greatly in bulk in the course of my journey, particularly since my visit to Larache. Into the third the numerous family of my host crowded with the greatest alacrity, without regarding the great inconvenience I was necessarily putting them to. I was now embarrassed to know what to do with the baggage, mules, and their owners; for on applying for admission at the alcassaba they had been refused on account of the absence of the kaid or governor from Arzilla,

and no one there had authority to open the gates in his absence. All this time both men and beasts were standing in the streets, exposed to a pouring rain, not knowing what to do; when my host, seeing the dilemma we were in, suggested, fortunately, the saint of the place as likely to assist us in this difficulty; and upon application to him, he sent up an immediate order that the gates of the alcassaba should be opened for the party, who were accordingly received within its walls; a circumstance that gave me a sufficient idea of the power and influence these holy men possessed.

I was hardly established in my new quarters, and was occupied in unpacking my things, being wet through, when the saint himself did me the honour of a visit, and, accompanied by a large concourse of his followers, entered the yard, which was completely filled with them. Having had no expectation of so early a call, I was quite unprepared for it, and in the state I was I felt a good deal inclined to reverse the order of things, and, instead of receiving a blessing from the holy man, to give him one for the trouble he had put himself to in coming so early. When I considered, however, that I was already a good deal indebted to him, and that his power was very great over the people, I endeavoured to appear as pleased as I could at seeing him.

On entering my little chamber, which was immediately filled with a crowd of Moors, the old man asked after my health, and said I was welcome at Arzilla. He then seated himself on the ground, his attendants remaining standing around him. After a short time had elapsed in conversation, my host, beckoning me aside, told me it would be necessary to entertain the saint and his party with tea; upon which the canteen being opened and the tea-things produced, the pot was filled, and we all sat down to tea, although I felt much more inclined for my dinner, having fasted since an early hour in the morning. The countenances of the saint and his disciples showed evident marks of satisfaction at the sight of my green tea, which I made very strong to please their taste; and on the appearance of a most plentiful supply of fine loaf sugar, their eyes glistened like its sparkling lumps, in anticipation of the expected treat. To work we now set in good earnest, and when it is to be considered that I had to supply a party of a dozen thirsty Mahometans, who only respect a Christian for his tea and sugar, it may readily be supposed that the pot was kept turned continually downwards. A pretty constant fire was kept up for near an hour, until hot water itself began to fail, and fresh ammunition of tea as well as sugar became necessary, from the number of cups

drunken, and the quantity of sugar consumed, which the good saint in his joy distributed most plentifully round to his followers, telling me at the same time that my tea was good, and that I was a good man. Among the old man's hangers-on, who I could plainly see were all a set of arrant rogues, was one in particular, who seemed to be his chief disciple, and who, I was informed, lived entirely with him, studying the saintly trade, in which he hoped to succeed him at his death. He was a sanctified, demure-looking fellow, young and healthy, and doubtless found his account in paying the implicit respect and veneration to his master which he did, for he took care to find an opportunity of informing me, that the saint always expected a present of money from every one, and in particular from a Christian; upon which I thought it politic to loose my purse-strings, and do as I was told. The old man received my offering with complacency, and immediately distributed it among his followers, among whom I observed that the personage who had kindly given me the advice, so disinterested on his part, did not receive the smallest share.

The things were now about to be taken away, after many marks of admiration being bestowed on the cups and saucers, which were not very agreeable to my ears, when the old man requested

me to give him one of the teaspoons, which I accordingly did, thinking myself lucky at the time to escape so well. I was, however, mistaken; for as I was slyly conveying the teapot out of sight, the old man, who kept the eye of a hawk on it, desired he might look at it. It was of queen's metal, and such a one had never been seen before by any of them. Its shape was first discussed, and its good qualities for pouring, drawing, and making tea, were so loudly praised, that I began to tremble, when the saint concluded to my horror, by begging me to give him the teapot; and at the same moment his cunning coadjutor gave me a most significant look on no account to refuse the saint what he asked for. I had now to get out of the scrape as well as I could. It was impossible I could part with the teapot; it was the comfort, nay, very existence, of us all—I had but this one; and, besides all this, it was not mine own, having been lent me, as well as the contents of the canteen, by my friend, Mr. Duguid of Gibraltar. All these excuses I enforced, as I thought, with such seeming reasonableness, that the saint appeared satisfied, and said no more.

Sidi Mohammed Ben Marzoug, the celebrated saint of Arzilla, whose fame is spread over the whole of Morocco, is a venerable old man, apparently between seventy and eighty, robust in form, and with a benevolent, good-

humoured countenance. His apparel, as is generally the case, was of the meanest description, consisting of a filthy coarse jelibea, and his person and appearance so dirty as made him by no means desirable for a close neighbour. His head, contrary to the Mahometan custom, was unshaved, and he wore neither turban nor other covering to his coarse gray locks.

I was told that he was held in the greatest respect and veneration by all classes, and that even the sultan himself and the different bashaws, particularly the bashaw of Tangier, were in the frequent habit of sending him considerable presents; by which means the old man had amassed, it was said, great wealth. He was, however, represented to me as being extremely liberal and kind to the poor, and appeared, indeed, to set little store on his riches, if what was related of him was true, namely, that it was a favourite habit of his to sit on a rock near to the town and throw pieces of money into the sea. It appeared to be now my turn to receive something; for, thinking, perhaps, it would have great weight with me, he took it into his head to present me with a piece of his dirty robe, which he had cut off, and which he assured me would be a passport of safety and protection, not only in Morocco, but in all parts of the world inhabited by Mussulmen. In order that I might better appreciate the value of this inestimable gift, I was given to un-

derstand by his followers that it was a mark of esteem which the saint rarely bestowed upon even one of his own countrymen, much less upon a Christian.

The old man sat like a rock on the floor, with a most immoveable countenance, for near three hours, to my utter despair, when he suddenly rose, seeing, probably, that there was nothing else to be got from me. He did not, however, take his departure without making another most direct attack upon the teapot, which I parried as well as I could. When about leaving the house to return home, his chief hypocrite, whom I have before noticed, begged his blessing, or, in other words, entreated him to favour him by spitting in his face; with which request the holy man immediately complied with the greatest liberality and benevolence. I had by this time such a surfeit of saints that I never wished to set eyes upon one again.

Arzilla is a small ancient town fortified with lofty walls flanked with massive towers, being situated low and close upon the shore of the Atlantic, which washes its walls. A great part of it is occupied by the alcassaba; a large irregular building of considerable extent, and at a distance having a very picturesque appearance. The interior of the town a good deal resembles Tangier, but is infinitely more wretched and

miserable in its buildings and general aspect. I certainly saw it to disadvantage, from the rain, and the impression not being rendered more favourable by the poor squalid-looking Jews, who, in spite of the falling deluge, were paddling about barefooted, and presented a most pitiable appearance of poverty. The Moors of Arzilla are a most uncouth and barbarous race, and so insulting to Christians from the little intercourse they have with them, that it is by no means either desirable or agreeable for a stranger to remain longer than can be avoided. This is, indeed, pretty much the case throughout every part of Morocco where the Moor is to be met with. As long as the traveller pitches his tent, whether it be in the plains or among the hills, he may indeed be exposed to theft and plunder, but he meets with none of the bigoted insults and contemptuous behaviour he is almost sure of experiencing from the inhabitants of the towns, and which greatly detract from the pleasure of travelling in this country.

Arzilla is inhabited, according to the information I received from my host, by about twenty Jewish families, who languish in great wretchedness and poverty from the want of trade. During the remainder of the day the doors of my quarters were besieged, not only by Jews, but by Moors: the former could be kept back, but the latter forced their way into

my very room to get a sight of the Christian dog within; and my host, being a Jew, did not dare even to speak for fear of affronting them. I was, however, not so scrupulous; and at last was obliged to expel some of the most intrusive in a summary manner, and kept the gates afterwards closely barred throughout the evening.

The rain still continued to pour down, and the air had become so chilly in consequence that I was glad to avail myself at night of the warmth of a chafing-dish. In the course of the evening a servant came from the saint, bringing with him a present of two small loaves of coarse black bread; which attention I returned by sending him some tea and sugar. A gift of the former kind is considered by the Moors as the greatest possible pledge of friendship, and is made by the sultan himself whenever he wishes to testify his sentiments of particular esteem and regard for a person.

Although I was up at an early hour the following morning, the saint was beforehand with me; for on putting my head out of my chamber door to examine the state of the weather, I found his disciple patiently sitting on the steps, and learnt that he had been there some time. On inquiring the reason of his early visit, he merely replied that he was come for my teapot. I now saw that the saint was determined not to give up his point; and as from his power he could

annoy me in a more serious manner, and even prevent my proceeding on my journey, I thought it prudent to comply with his wishes, and therefore sent word back that if he would lend me one I would make him a present of mine. The messenger was not long in returning, and carried away my poor teapot in triumph, leaving in its place an old earthenware one not worth a sixpence, but, singular enough, of English manufacture, and which, having been cruelly torn in its early days from its birthplace in the potteries, had been fated to linger out its existence in so villanous a country. The poor thing was now released from slavery, as it was my firm intention to carry it back to its native country, and preserve it as a memorial of my holy friend at Arzilla. I was told that the good saint was very curious in his teapots, of which he had a very large collection of all sorts and sizes; but that he had never possessed, or seen, one of metal like mine, which was the reason he so much coveted it. I was now determined to be off as quickly as possible, to get out of the reach of this troublesome old saint, and to prevent my goods and chattels affording any further temptation. Most fortunately I had only commenced unpacking a few of them when he paid me the visit, or else doubtless my beasts would have returned with a lighter load.

The news of the battle of Navarino did not

appear to be known at Arzilla more than at Larache; and the Jew, my host, on my informing him privately of it, seemed greatly struck at the intelligence; and I could not help observing that his countenance showed more signs of exultation than of sorrow at the news I had communicated to him.

It had rained hard both the whole of the preceding evening and during the night; and as the appearance of the weather was unfavourable in the morning, I began to be seriously uneasy about the possibility of getting back to Tangier, from the state of the rivers, and I resolved to set off at any rate. The very thought of being cooped up, for any length of time, in my present narrow quarters in so miserable a hole as Arzilla, and subjected to the nuisances that have been mentioned, was quite sufficient to determine me; and I sent word to the alkaid and the muleteers, who were in the alcassaba, to have the animals ready for immediately setting out.

From the natural indolence of the Moors, and their evident unwillingness to leave their present quarters in such weather, it was ten o'clock before the mules were brought to my quarters; and another hour elapsed before the baggage was packed. As for the alkaid, who had been comfortably lodged along with the saint, he was so vexed at my setting out that he would not speak a word. We were, however, at last ready.

The rain had fortunately ceased; and having thanked my host for his great attention to me, I had just got my foot in the stirrup to mount, when I was touched on the shoulder by some one, and, looking round, who should I see but the saint's deputy come for his master's teapot, which he had already repented having lent me, as fearful he should not get it back again. The fellow actually seemed to haunt me; and I felt so provoked, that, if it had not been safely packed at the bottom of my baggage, I would have returned it by breaking it with infinite satisfaction over the rascal's head.

It was with no small pleasure that I quitted Arzilla and its barbarian inhabitants; and, passing the gates, found myself and party on the sands, with our horses' heads turned towards Europe. We had not got far when we met a country Moor with a sheep, which, upon inquiry, we were told he was taking as a present to the saint of Arzilla, a proof that my holy friend, the collector of teapots, did not fare very indifferently. The view of the town from the seashore at a short distance is rather fine: its low wretched habitations are unseen; and the long-extended line of its walls and battlements alone appears washed by the ocean, and picturesquely broken by the lofty towers and minarets of the alcassaba. At the extremity towards the land was a sanctuary, the white form of which was

a pretty object amid the foliage of the surrounding gardens. Its architecture appeared more ornamented than usual. We kept for a short distance along the sands; when, having passed a small stream called the Wad el Hhalou (sweet river), we left the shore, and passed through an open bush-country, in which a small Arab douar was occasionally seen, and a few camels grazing at a short distance. We passed a remarkably handsome young Arab female, with fine luxuriant black hair, eyes like a sloe, and nut-brown complexion, with a fine colour mantling upon her cheeks. She was quite uncovered, and seemed not a little pleased at the effect she had produced.

The next river we reached was the Wad el Rife, which I suppose to be the same as the Ayache. The rivers vary their names so frequently according to the districts through which they pass, and local circumstances, that it is difficult to avoid confusion. We found it a good deal swelled; but we got over without much difficulty. On the high steep banks of the opposite side was an olive plantation, enclosing, I was informed, a sanctuary. The cold, wet, low country we afterwards passed through was cultivated in patches by the Arabs; and some attempts at draining, or rather at damming up the water-courses had been made, in order to give a new direction to the water, and prevent it over-

flowing the grounds which had been newly sown. We now ascended the range of Garbia, the situation of which, being dry and elevated, and having good pasture, make it a desirable spot for the numerous douars which are scattered over it. Near the descent to the east are some remains of ancient buildings, the stones of which are spread for some distance in a circular direction. From their situation on the brow of the eminence, a watch-tower probably at one time overlooked the country below. In another part many hewn stones of a large size are seen scattered along the ground. The weather being now tolerably clear, a fine view presented itself of the opposite mountains.

On descending into the plain of Garbia, we found the travelling very bad from the effects of the wet weather; and we met some Arabs who told us, what we had great reason to fear might be the case, that the rivers were much swelled. This was bad news, but we found it to be correct; for on reaching the Holge, a branch of the main river, we found a passage impassable from the depth of the water; and were therefore obliged to keep along its banks, without succeeding in discovering any safe place to pass. We made, indeed, an attempt with one of the mules; but the water was so deep that if the animal had advanced another yard, both itself and baggage would have been afloat.

We therefore gave it up, and directed our steps to an Arab douar to get some intelligence respecting the height of the river; more particularly of the Mechra el Hachéf, which was of the greatest importance. The douar, which was on a rising ground, consisted of twelve miserable low tents, and was soaked in wet from the nature of the soil. The women were industriously employed in bringing home loads of thistles from the plain for fuel, while the men were sitting ranged in a row on the side of the hill. One of them appeared well acquainted with the different crossing-places; and he agreed, upon a promise of a reward, to conduct us safely over both streams.

After a length of time, a place was found which our guide said was fordable; and which we at length got across, though not without wetting the lower part of the baggage, the animals at times being off their legs. We had now to traverse about a mile of plain before we should reach the larger river, which the guide said would not be so difficult to cross, although, from the depth of the smaller stream, it did not seem likely that such would be the case.

It was about three in the afternoon when we reached the Mechra el Hachef; and advancing with eager and anxious haste to its steep banks, we found, to our consternation, its broad channel almost full, and a deep and rapid river running

before us, the stream of which was evidently rising. To cross it was impossible; and we began to consult upon what was best to be done. We were now in a dilemma, being hemmed in on an island from which there were no present means of escape; as, if we retraced our steps to the Holge, it would have been useless on account of the rise of the water; and if we remained, and the rain should recommence, the plain would very soon be flooded, and our situation would become awkward and dangerous. We determined at last to encamp where we were, on the banks of the river, and to await the falling of the water.

This was not the best spot, certainly, for passing the night in, as the plain was wet and swampy; and we should not only go to bed without our usual warm mess of kouskous, but our poor animals would be deprived of their corn. Neither the weather nor our prospects were very bright: upon the former the latter materially depended, as at the least we might be obliged to remain for some days, awaiting the decline of the water, should the wet weather recommence. It was, however, no use to complain, and therefore we got up the tents and turned the beasts out to graze. Fortunately I had still a supply of provisions for the evening, and we made ourselves as comfortable as our situation would allow. The only tolerably dry spot we could find for the tents was on the very edge of

the high steep banks; and though the ground was uneven, it was better than lying on the swampy part.

We had been anxiously watching the state of the river, when, to our satisfaction, towards evening it began to fall; and, under promise of a good reward, we prevailed on an Arab belonging to a douar which was pitched on the opposite side of the river to attempt the passage and bring us over some barley for our poor animals, which he accomplished in safety. This put us in good spirits, as there was little doubt, if the weather fortunately continued dry during the night, that the water would be sufficiently low in the morning to enable the loaded mules to cross. Some time before sunset we heard a distant cannonade in the direction of the Straits of Gibraltar, which we concluded proceeded from the batteries of Tangier, though on what account we could not surmise.

The Arab who had come over to us liked my tea and our company so well, that he remained with us all night, and sat chatting along with the muleteers by the side of the fire, although he was just married, and had left his young wife on the opposite side of the river. He informed me that the mountains in front were the commencement of Jibel Habib, and that a high round-topped mountain to the south was called Kanooar. He spoke much of the loss the douar often sustained

from the attacks of the mountaineers, who lived, he said, in straw huts. At supper-time, as we were short of bread, my people, without my knowing it, laid sacrilegious hands on one of the holy loaves which the saint had presented me with, and had even eaten part of the remaining one, when I discovered it, and rescued it from their jaws.

The night was beautifully clear and calm, and I found, before I retired to bed, that the water had sunk two feet. Our small camp was in motion early the following morning, and the appearance of the river was satisfactory, though still the body of water was considerable. We were all busily occupied in taking down the tents, and arranging the camp equipage, preparatory to our departure, when a most violent altercation suddenly took place between the alkaid and the Portuguese. It seemed that the former, who was peevish and morose, and accustomed to have his own way in every thing, had been rather too peremptory in his orders relative to the mode of loading the baggage mules, an affair with which he had nothing to do. This interference gave in consequence mortal offence to the Portuguese, who was himself as hot as a tomata, and he became so enraged upon hearing the old Mahometan's threat of striking him, that I apprehended some act of violence: this would doubtless have been the case if I had not

interposed the arm of authority, and silenced the disputants in a summary manner. By the time we had breakfasted and packed the baggage, it had lowered so much that we determined to make the attempt; in which we succeeded to my great satisfaction, and got safe, and tolerably dry, to the other side of the river. We had still a second to cross, and took a guide from the douar we were now at. When we reached it, although it was inconsiderable, we found the crossing more difficult and dangerous for the mules than the Mechra el Hachef, from the badness of the bottom. Our guide said it was called the Wad el Harkan. Our principal difficulties were now over, as there were no other rivers in our way that were likely to stop our progress.

Having advanced a short distance, we passed a considerable douar, widely scattered over ground which was undulated with several small swelling rises, on which the tents were pitched, each occupying a considerable space to itself. It was easy to perceive from the appearance of the douar, and the number of cattle, goats, sheep, and horses, that the tribe was wealthy, and very different from the others we had seen. Near it was a small grove of cork-trees, prettily dispersed on a gentle eminence, covered with a most beautiful green herbage. We skirted the bases of the mountains, which became now picturesque. Large masses of rock peeped out,

clothed with foliage, and occasionally forming a perpendicular wall. Huge fragments lay scattered on the plain. The narrow clefts of the mountains were thickly covered with evergreens and other shrubs.

The wood now began to extend itself along the rising grounds we were traversing, and we came to a part covered with straggling cork-trees, in the midst of which were two Arab tents. We came upon them quite unexpectedly; and their inmates, which were chiefly females, came out with looks of astonishment to gaze upon our party as we passed. After crossing another stream which was a good deal swelled, we entered the mountains about noon, from the top of which occasional glimpses presented themselves, through the surrounding foliage, of the blue main in the distance; and I distinguished, to my delight, the white sails of several vessels pursuing their course along the shores of Europe.

The track was excessively bad from the wet weather as we descended into the rich plain-country, which we found deep and laborious for our mules. As we plodded along, we met four soldiers of the sultan's body-guard, on their way from Tangier to Fez, habited entirely in white, with hayks of very fine texture drawn closely over their heads. Their figures were tall and commanding; and as they

sat gracefully on horseback their snowy garments contrasted most picturesquely with the scarlet housings of the fine spirited animals on which they rode. We had proceeded but a short distance, when we encountered another party, consisting of several loaded mules, on one of which was seated a Moorish lady; but who, from her dark, brawny, naked legs astride of the animal's shoulders, I took for a male, particularly as she was covered with a blue sulham. On passing her I found out my mistake, as she immediately covered herself, by drawing her hayk, which was underneath, over her face. She was attended by two black slaves, and was, I learnt, a wife of one of the sultan's ex-governors or kaids, who, having been ruined by his royal master's stripping him of his property—a fate which, as I have before said, pretty constantly attends people in office—was going to reside at Arzilla.

The road to Tangier seemed quite alive; for we had not advanced very far when we discerned another party ahead of us; and on our overtaking them, I found it was a small caravan of mules from Fez loaded with dates, and headed by a venerable old Moor, who informed me that the road to that city was now impassable from the rain. As his cargo consisted of fresh fruit, and he had some of the soft

date, which is superior in taste to the other kinds, I agreed with him for a quantity, which he promised to deliver to me at Tangier.

We were now within two or three miles of the town, when we met a party of the bashaw's troops who had been out on an expedition; and it was with infinite pleasure that I again entered the streets of Tangier, and fancied I had now seen quite enough of this country.

CHAPTER V.

Commencement of the Winter Season.—Scarcity of Woodcocks.—Lakes near the western Coast.—The Flamingo.—Singular Fineness of the Weather.—Arrival of Steam-vessels from Gibraltar.—Grand Salute from the Batteries.—Cause of it.—Exultation of the Inhabitants.—The Moors.—Their Features, Figure, and Cast of Countenance.—Dignity of Manner.—Costume.—Complexion.—Character of the Race.—Plurality of Wives.—Facilities of Divorce.—Habit of swearing by the Harem.—Bid adieu to Barbary.

ONCE more I established myself in my old quarters at Tangier, intending to remain until the end of the month, and at the commencement of the new year to exchange the shores of Barbary for those of Europe, and then to proceed overland home from Gibraltar. By that period I expected that the various things which I had ordered from Fez would have reached Tangier. In the meantime I amused myself chiefly with sporting, and making excursions throughout the neighbouring country. The number of ducks and other wild fowls that were brought in by the country Moors for sale showed that the winter season had set in, although the weather was unusually fine and dry, and at

times exceedingly warm. Towards evening, however, it was generally so chilly as to render Mr. Ellis's fire-side a most delightful and sociable acquisition. Woodcocks are found in Morocco in small numbers. It was now the season for them; but I never succeeded in finding a single one. Some of the retired, deep, woody glens near the coast, and in the direction of Cape Spartel, present the finest cover possible for them, being thickly clothed with evergreens, and watered by mountain-streams. In some parts, whole thickets of the beautiful gum-cistus, of the height of a man, scent the air with its spicy fragrance; through these the numerous wild boars make their beaten tracks.

In one of these secluded valleys there is a mineral spring, strongly impregnated with iron, as clear as crystal, and affording a deliciously cool beverage to the tired sportsman. Some lakes near the western coast afforded me occasionally a pleasant day's sporting-ride. These are about ten miles distant from Tangier, and are the resort of large quantities of wild-fowl, snipe, and plover. At the smaller of these, which washes the borders of a cork forest, are generally to be seen numbers of that beautiful bird the flamingo; but they are so wary, that it is very difficult to get a shot at them, keeping at a considerable distance from the shore, and in the centre of the principal lake, which is

Sketched by Dr. Adn. C. Brown

On Stone by J.D. Harding

Plateau View of part of the Range of the Lower Atlas.

shallow. The flamingo is described by Linnæus as being of a white-ash colour the first year, the second rosy, and the third full scarlet. It is singular, however, that I never met with any of the last; the prevailing colour of every one that I saw being decidedly white, which, together with the height of the bird, when wading, enables it to be distinguished at a considerable distance. One of them that was brought to me at Tangier by a Moor who had shot it, wanted but an inch of six feet in height, the legs being of a pink colour, webbed, and two feet and a half in length. The general colour of the bird was of a clear white, gradually blending at the wings with a most lovely, delicate, blush colour, with some feathers of a pale scarlet. It had unfortunately been injured so much as to render it useless for the purpose of stuffing. I wished very much to have procured a living specimen; but, although I offered a good reward to any Moor who would bring me one, I did not succeed.

The two Moorish brigs of war, that had been lying some time in the bay fitting out, at last sailed on a cruise to the eastward, with only half a crew, in the hopes of pouncing upon some unfortunate Bremen or Hamburgh merchantmen. It is part of the piratical policy of Morocco and the other Barbary powers, to consider themselves at war with those European states with whom they

have no treaty, or from whom, in plain words, they receive no tribute; and agreeably to this, they make no scruple in capturing any of their vessels. Some of the Christian states, Sweden for instance, actually pay a good round sum in annual presents to propitiate each of these barbarous powers, without which they would be obliged to keep up, at an enormous expense, a constant armed force in the Mediterranean for the sole purpose of protecting their own commerce from these pirates.

Such a season as the present had not been known for years in Morocco. The wet weather, which had been so inconvenient during my journey, had cleared up, and during the whole of the month the weather was warm and dry, the thermometer being generally above 60. Although Christmas was close at hand, peas and beans were ready for the table; the consular gardens were perfumed with the fragrance of roses, violets, hyacinths, mignonette, and other flowers; while the burial-grounds were covered with the blue iris and common periwinkle.

To the utter astonishment of the Moors, and the joy of the whole of the Jewish tribe, a large steam-vessel, that had been engaged by a party of officers belonging to the English army at Lisbon, came over from Gibraltar with a nu-

merous cargo, and threw the quiet little town of Tangier into the most ludicrous confusion during the few hours she remained.

The two brigs of war now returned empty-handed, having, it appeared, only been as far as Tetuan and the Spanish coast of the Mediterranean. The bashaw, who had been out for several days on an expedition against the mountaineers of Angera, who as usual had refused to pay any taxes, returned with his horse, about four hundred in number, and remained some time on the sands, firing and charging in parties of six or eight together, after which they were dismissed, and dispersed to the neighbouring villages. The reports were so various, that I could not at all ascertain whether they had been successful or not.

After having eaten my Christmas dinner in Barbary, I was busy one morning with packing up my chests, when a grand salute from the batteries near the house quite shook the town; and running to the flagstaff, I found the different terraces covered with women, who were as ignorant as myself of the cause of the rejoicing, until, sending up to the Portuguese house, the mystery was at once revealed. It seems, an express had arrived from the sultan at Fez, appointing the captain of the Moorish brig Rabegiar, for so she was named, admiral of the whole of the fleet of Morocco, which now con-

stituted a formidable force, consisting of the two small craft just purchased and another brig, which it was said was lying at Sallee.

It was amusing to see the admiral, Rais Abderahman, a dirty-looking Moor, strutting about the town the whole of the day with a scimetar splendidly mounted in gold, and which had been presented to him by the sultan's own hands a short time previously. The proud looks of the Moors showed their satisfaction at the event; and it was whispered about that some important scheme was afloat which would greatly influence the present state of affairs in Europe. It was sagaciously hinted that the fleet, when ready for sea, was to sail for the Mediterranean, and revenge the destruction of the Egyptian fleet by an attack upon the combined squadrons of the Christian powers. Some shrewdly fancied that the sultan had an eye to Gibraltar, and in the pride of their hearts already saw the red flag of the Mussulman once more waving on that fortress; while more sensible and moderate men reduced their ambitious views to the regaining possession of Ceuta.

On the following day the petty fleet again sailed, directing their course through the straits to the eastward. For some time past there had been a considerable degree of bustle observable in the magazines and storehouses adjoining the batteries; and long trains of mules were load-

ing with bombs and shot; destined, I was informed, for Mequinez, to keep the Schilluhs in subjection, who had lately been showing symptoms of turbulence in the neighbourhood of that capital.

I had as yet received no intelligence about the things I had ordered from Fez; and as they were probably detained by the state of the roads, I determined not to wait for them any longer, but to prepare for my departure without further delay.

Previous to my quitting Morocco, I shall make a few observations on the people; among whom I had now been a sufficient time to be able to form a judgment of their character.

In person, the Moor is tall and straight, of a commanding figure, and possessing great muscularity of form, with dark eyes, white teeth, a beard like jet, and handsome features, full of a grave expression. His general cast of countenance is Roman; and his lofty dignity of manner is such, that when you see him enveloped in the folds of his snow-white hayk, which falls gracefully over his left shoulder, you might almost imagine a senator of ancient Rome stood before you. How different in other respects are the two characters! the hayk, which is of fine woollen manufacture, is thrown over the left shoulder, like the Spanish cloak; and, being passed in graceful folds round the body and over

the head, conceals every part, with the exception of the legs: it is considered an indispensable exterior garment, and is constantly worn, both out of doors and within, when in the presence of friends. Underneath the hayk is the usual Moorish dress; consisting of a kaftan of cloth and very wide trousers, reaching a little below the knee and girded by a sash; the wearer's dagger is suspended by a silken cord which is thrown over the right shoulder, and confines the hayk at the same time. The legs are quite bare, the feet alone being covered with loose yellow morocco slippers, which are always of this colour to distinguish them from those of the females, which are red. The slippers are worn down at the heels, for the greater facility of taking them off whenever they enter the house. From the feet not being confined and injured by tight shoes, they are white, well shaped, and are taken equal care of, in regard to cleanliness, as the hands. On the head, which is kept constantly shaven, is worn a red felt cap, round which is folded a piece of white linen forming a turban.

With regard to complexion, the present race of Moors may generally be considered swarthy, from the gradual intermixture of the negro blood introduced by Muley Ishmael. The real Moor, however, is not dark, and may be called decidedly fair in comparison with the Spaniards of Andalusia; who, nevertheless, are supposed

to have derived their present darkness of complexion from the old Spanish Moors. There is, however, good reason to believe, from the descriptions which history supplies us with of the latter, that they were a fair race, at least, considerably more so than the Spaniard of the present day; whilst the descendants of these very Moors now settled in Morocco still preserve the original fairness of complexion of their Andalusian ancestors. This may be observed in particular at Tetuan, Rabat, and Fez, where the old Moors of Spain principally established themselves on being expelled from the country. At these towns the inhabitants are fairer than the Moors of other parts, and many have complexions as fair as the English: even at Tangier I have observed many considerably fairer than any Andalusian I ever saw.

If the character of the Moor be examined, it will be found to consist of a compound of every thing that is worthless and contemptible, and the few good qualities he possesses are quite lost in the dark shade thrown around them. Utterly destitute of faïth, his vows and promises are made at the same time with such a resemblance of sincerity as rarely to fail of deceiving his victim: truth is an utter stranger to his lips, and falsehood so familiar with him, that dependence can rarely be placed on any thing that he says. Like the catholics, who are accused of

upholding the doctrine that no faith should be observed towards heretics, the Moor glories in keeping none with Christians: these tenets are to be attributed to the influence which the bigoted character of his religion has upon him from his earliest years. In his disposition he is cruel, merciless, overbearing, and tyrannical; and benevolence and humanity are strangers to his breast. Proud, arrogant, and haughty as his general demeanour is, particularly to his inferiors, he is fawning and cringing to those above him, and the veriest slave imaginable, when in contact with those whose power he has reason to be afraid of. Suspicious perhaps as much from the general uncertainty of life and property in Morocco, as from his own natural disposition, there is no tie of faith or friendship which is not capable of being dissolved when any thing is likely to be obtained; to accomplish which he will descend to the lowest flattery, and the most servile acts of cunning wheedling. Liberality and generosity are unknown to him, or if he display these qualities, it is done from a certainty that he shall be well repaid for the exercise of them. It would have filled many of these pages had I related the numerous and almost incredible acts of meanness, even in the most paltry matters, which characterize all classes, but more particularly the higher, without even excepting the sultan himself.

The Moor is avaricious to a degree; and in proportion as the danger is great, of being opulent, so does his desire seem to increase of amassing wealth. The great risk that every one who has the reputation of being rich incurs from the griping claws of the sultan, obliges all to affect an appearance of poverty for their own security. On this account no Moor ever boasts or talks about his own possessions, and if you have a mind to frighten him effectually, you need only tax him with being wealthy. In his religion he is cruel and bigoted in the greatest extreme, persecuting Christians of all denominations, but more particularly holding in abhorrence the members of the Roman catholic church, whom he considers as idolaters. The feelings of the Moor on this head are remarkably strong and universal; and no figure or resemblance of the human form is ever to be seen, whether in manuscript, drawings, ornaments, ornamental designs, or in any shape whatsoever, it being considered a sin; and when any portrait of man, or print of the human figure, is shown to them, it is easy to perceive demonstrations of uneasiness and aversion. From ignorance of the strong feelings entertained on this head, instances have occurred of costly presents having been made by the European powers to the sultan, of plate magnificently chased and embossed with figures, but which has been in-

stantly melted down; and one of the sovereigns of Spain having sent his own portrait, a compliment not unusual among European princes, it was immediately sent back.

The above are sufficient to show the opinions they entertain in this respect. As to the other parts of the Moor's character, they may be summed up by observing, that he is naturally indolent, both from climate and general habits, grossly ignorant, hypocritical, zealous, vindictive, and a coarse and abandoned sensualist. On the other hand, he is patient under suffering, perfectly resigned to whatever infliction Providence may choose to visit him with, a scrupulous and rigid observer of the forms of his religion, and a firm and conscientious believer in its faith and his holy prophet. His predestinarian principles teach him to bear misfortunes with the patience and firmness of a philosopher, and on this account instances of suicides rarely occur.

If the Moor possess few of the virtues of civilized nations, and despicable and worthless as his general character unquestionably is, still he is at least free from many vices which luxury and refinement entail as curses upon the former; and it must be confessed that the horrible enormities and outrages, the singular pitch of refinement to which vice is carried, and the monstrous shapes it appears in, in our own

country, the details of which are so studiously daily blazed abroad to the destruction of morals, the increase of crime, and the utter subversion of female delicacy and purity, are as rare in Morocco as in other parts where civilization has made equally slow advances.

If the Moor be sensual in his enjoyments, at least propriety and decency are never outraged in the gross manner they are in Christian countries; and he is so scrupulous on this point, that it is considered a rule of decorum that he should never speak of his wives, or other females of his household establishment; and you might almost doubt the existence of the sex, from its being so little seen or heard of. This arises from a sense of delicacy which one is surprised to meet with in this country. The sex are here on a very different footing from what they are among Christian nations: with the latter their possession of a soul is not a matter of doubt, and their mental and personal qualities excite equal respect and admiration; while the Mahometan woman is regarded simply as an object of sensual pleasure, a mere animal, created for his own enjoyment alone, the bare mention of whom he considers, and not without reason, would be a breach of delicacy.

The sensuality, however, of the Moor himself will admit of considerable excuse, when it is considered that he is encouraged in it by his re-

ligion; the tendency of which will be properly estimated from the following ingenious morceau, an extract from the Koran, the rule of the Mussulman's faith:—

"But all these glories will be eclipsed by the resplendent and ravishing girls of paradise, called, from their black eyes, 'Hur al oyun,' the enjoyment of whose company will be a principal felicity of the faithful: these, they say, are created not of clay as mortal women are, but of pure musk; and are kept secluded in pavilions of hollow pearls, so long that one of them will be sixty miles in length and breadth!!!"

By the Mahometan law, the Moor is allowed four wives only, but other females without stint, or, in other words, as many as he can maintain. In regard, however, to the first, although he may appear limited, in point of fact it is merely nominally so; as, from the extreme facilities which are given to divorce, a man, provided he be rich enough, can change his wives pretty nearly as often as he chooses. The obligation, however, he is under of returning the dower operates as a wholesome and powerful check to the latitude of the law in this respect, and at the same time, it is considered neither respectable nor justifiable, except when the woman is at fault, and it is sure to raise up against him a host of enemies in her relations and friends. When once divorced,

from a wife he cannot marry her again, except she has been remarried to another person and again divorced.

It is a practice of no unusual occurrence for a Moor to swear by his harem, that is to say, make a vow to be divorced from one or more of his wives, on the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of a certain event, whatever it may be. This he considers in the light of a solemn oath and obligation, which he is obliged to keep, should circumstances turn out so as to render it necessary. In this case, should he feel unwilling to lose the wife he divorces on account of his oath, and be anxious to regain her, the only way by which he can accomplish it is to find some bosom friend upon whom he can rely, that will marry her, and again divorce her the following morning, without having availed himself of the privileges of a husband; when the woman being again at liberty, her former husband can remarry her. It sometimes, however, happens, that the ties of friendship, close as they may be, snap asunder from being stretched too much by this dangerous trial, and that the charms of the lady prove such a temptation, that he cannot refrain, and finally refuses to give up his wife to her former husband, who comes to his door the next day to receive her from the hands of his supposed faithful friend.

Notwithstanding the Mahometan religion

allows a plurality of wives, there are few, compared with the great mass, who either avail themselves of this latitude, or are enabled from their circumstances to do so; it being a luxury which none but those who are tolerably rich can afford, and a poor man is thus obliged to content himself with one; which will be found enough for any reasonable person, whatever may be the climate. At Tangier, among a population of several thousands, there were very few instances of more than one wife being kept; and a sensible Moor observed once, in conversation to a friend of mine, that they did not entertain a better opinion of a person for keeping a large female establishment, but rather the contrary; and that none but bashaws and other wealthy persons indulged in this excess.

An unmarried female past the age of eighteen or twenty is rarely to be met with. A single life, indeed, is not considered as creditable in either sex, and instances of it very seldom occur. Arguing from the circumstance that the number of persons who possess two, three, or four wives form a very inconsiderable portion of the population, the males and females in Morocco would seem to be more evenly balanced than in Europe; where, in our own country at least, the proportion of females so much exceeds that of the men, that many thousand spinsters out of the whole population must inevitably remain

so, for this simple and sufficient reason, independent of other obstacles, that there are not men sufficient.

Surely this is a case where the general march of intellect and the heavy disabilities under which so many of his majesty's fair subjects labour, cry loudly for a more liberal line of policy than the present narrow-minded and old-fashioned system, hitherto pursued with such mistaken consistency, of limiting a man to one wife, and thereby cutting off so many poor superfluous females from the chance of ever getting a husband. The rights of the sex, common justice, and even morality itself require, indeed, that some relief should be afforded; not dealt out with a sparing hand, but liberally, and free from any restraints or fetters except those of Hymen. A measure which would legalize a plurality of wives, and place the sex at least on an equal footing with their Mahometan sisterhood, would not only be of incalculable benefit to the nation, by arousing its energies, but would be received with gratitude by so fair and deserving a portion of our fellow subjects.

To return, after this short digression, to my former observations respecting the Moorish character, I shall merely add here, that the traits I have already mentioned are rendered comparatively insignificant when weighed against

some blacker vices which are commonly practised, and thought little of, and give the last stain to as despicable and worthless a race as ever existed.

I had now been for some days employed in getting ready my different cases and baggage; and having sent word to the bashaw of my intended departure, at which no doubt he felt not a little rejoiced, I took leave of my good friends Mr. and Mrs. Ellis, from whom I had received so many marks of kindness during my stay; and bidding adieu to the rest of my Christian and Moorish friends, I left my quarters at the English house, not without some feelings of regret, and, accompanied by a crowd of Jews and Moors, proceeded to the beach, where the weekly courier boat was waiting to sail to Gibraltar. I had given liberal fees both to the collector and the captain of the port to facilitate my departure, and the latter, who was a huge athletic Moor, with as honest a physiognomy as a Moor is capable of, gave a proof of his good will in my cause by indiscriminately laying about him over the shoulders of the clamorous sons of Israel. Moors, however, as well as Jews, were, on this occasion, equally active; and it seemed as if the whole town were assembled, like a swarm of moskitoes, to extract the few remaining drops of blood I had left, in the shape of some Moorish silver ounces

in my pocket. A scene ensued which it is not very easy to describe, and amid the vociferations of Moors, the cackling of fowls, and the squeaking of Jews, I slipped across the neck of a half-starved Hebrew, as I had done on my first landing in the country, and at the risk of my own, and getting a good ducking into the bargain, was tumbled into the felucca, the principal part of whose passengers consisted of sundry fat capons bound for Gibraltar, where they were destined to appear at the hospitable boards of the merchants.

It was new-year's day, and the gay appearance of the flags which were streaming above the different consular houses, and the fineness of the morning, produced a lively and animated scene. At ten o'clock we weighed anchor, and moving slowly out of the harbour I bade adieu to Tangier and Morocco.

CHAPTER VI.

Arrival at Gibraltar.—General Sketch of the History of the Fortress.—First Invasion of the Arabs.—Taken by the Spaniards in the Beginning of the fourteenth Century.—Retaken by the Mahometans in 1333.—Fell into the Hands of the King of Granada in 1410.—Surrendered to the Spaniards in 1442.—Taken by Sir George Rooke in 1704.—Ineffectual Attempts of the Spaniards to retake it.—Siege of 1726.—Last and memorable Siege of Gibraltar in 1779.

THE wind being fair, we kept our course close along the Barbary shore, and so near that I could easily discern the spot which formed my old shooting ground, and which brought to my recollection the many pleasant hours I had spent on these mountains. At noon we were nearly opposite the dark form of Jibbel Moussa, towering above the angry billows of the Strait, and its gigantic crest veiled in cloud.

The sun was sinking fast when we entered the picturesque bay of Gibraltar, and my eyes were again gratified with the view of European shipping. Some very handsome American merchant vessels were also lying here; and, making our way through a forest of masts, we anchored in the quarantine ground, and having despatched a boat to the vessel stationed there with our bill

of health, we got permission to land. All this was done with as much quickness as possible, to prevent being obliged to remain on board for the night, as the sun was now in the horizon, and the gates of the fortress were on the point of closing for the night. We had, indeed, but little time to spare, for we had hardly got in when it was gun-fire, and slowly making my way through the crowds of joyous and careless spirits of all nations assembled to usher in the new year, I once more found myself, after an absence of three months, in my old quarters opposite the Exchange.

The hurry occasioned by the preparations which my Barbary tour obliged me to make, prevented me from giving more than a scanty account of Gibraltar in the previous volume; and thinking now, on my return to the Rock, how I should fill up the omission, my eye caught the pages of a plain and well written narrative*, from which I shall make bold to extract the following outlines of the general history of the fortress.

Gibraltar, the ancient Calpe, is situated at the extremity of Andalusia, the most southern province of Spain, and separated from the coast of Barbary by the narrow straits so well known as the Straits of Gibraltar.

The Rock, for it is literally one, is seven

* Drinkwater's History of the Siege of Gibraltar.

miles in circumference, forming a promontory three miles in length, the southern extremity of which is in 36° 2′ 30″ N. latitude.

It was in the year 712 that the Saracenic Arabs first established themselves at Gibraltar, under the command of Tarif, who commenced the erection of the Moorish castle, the remains of which, at the present day, form so interesting an object above the town.

Tarif, having left a garrison on the rock, which, in compliment to the general, now assumed the name of Jibbel Tarif, proceeded with the invasion of Spain, and being opposed by Roderick, the king of the Goths, the battle of Xeres, where the hostile armies first tried their strength, decided the fate of the Goths, who were obliged to retire to the mountainous retreats of the northern provinces, while the victorious Arabs, quickly overrunning the greater part of the kingdom, established themselves, and laid the foundation of that splendid empire which lasted for so many centuries.

Gibraltar does not appear in the early ages to have been a place of much importance, and seems to have been far exceeded by its present humble neighbour, Algeziras, which is represented in those times as a fortress of great strength and magnificence.

Gibraltar remained in the possession of the Mahometans until the beginning of the four-

teenth century, when the Christians had begun to recover themselves, and Ferdinand, king of Castile, took it with an inconsiderable detachment of his army, which was at this time occupied in besieging Algeziras.

Gibraltar was kept by the Spaniards until 1333, when Abomelique, son of the sultan of Fez, who had been despatched to the assistance of the Moorish king of Grenada, laid siege to it, and took it, after an obstinate defence by Vasco Perez de Meyra, the Spanish governor.

The fortress, however, did not remain many years in the hands of the Moors without an attack on the part of the Christians; for Alonzo XI., who was then on the throne of Castile, and who had been greatly moved by the loss of it, endeavoured to regain possession of it in 1349: and this attempt, to which he had been stimulated in 1343 by his success in taking Algeziras, however, failed, owing to a pestilential disorder which unfortunately broke out among the besiegers, and at a period when the castle was on the point of capitulating. The Spaniards were, in consequence, obliged to raise the siege, after a considerable loss; Alonzo being among the number of those who died.

In 1410 Gibraltar was taken possession of by Jusuf III., king of Grenada, and although the garrison was shortly afterwards driven out, he yet ultimately succeeded in regaining and keeping possession of the place.

In 1435, the Count de Niebla, who had formed a design of attacking Gibraltar, both by land and by sea, was defeated, and lost his life in the attempt.

Gibraltar had now been in the possession of the Mahometans a considerable period, when in 1442, a great part of the garrison having been withdrawn, and sent to Grenada, where a civil war had broken out, the fortress was attacked by the Spaniards, and after a resolute defence on the part of the inhabitants, was surrendered to John de Guzman, Duke de Medina Sidonia. Since this period Gibraltar has remained in the possession of the Christian powers.

In 1540 Gibraltar was surprised and pillaged by Piali Hamet, one of Barbarossa's captains, who made prisoners the principal inhabitants.

In the reign of Charles V. considerable additions were made to the fortifications, which were then considered impregnable; and Gibraltar remained annexed to the crown of Spain until the year 1704, when the English fleet, under Sir George Rooke, took it after a short and vigorous attack. This memorable event, which occurred in July, affected the Spaniards so sensibly, that the Marquis of Villadarias was ordered to besiege it, and use every endeavour to retake it, and on the 11th of October the trenches were accordingly opened against the town. Fortunately for the garrison, Sir John

Leake arrived shortly after to its assistance, with twenty sail of the line, and succeeded both in supplying the garrison with six months' provisions, and in repairing the breaches made by the enemy's fire, on the very day when an attack had been determined upon. The activity of the English admiral, and the arrival of men, ammunition, and provisions, foiled all the attempts of the enemy; and things remained in this situation until the beginning of the year 1705, when the Spaniards, having been considerably reinforced, made two successive desperate attacks, both of which were, however, repulsed by the garrison.

Notwithstanding the failure of all their efforts, both Spaniards and French were obstinately bent on the recovery of Gibraltar. The Marquis of Valladarias was superseded by the French marshal, Tessé, the works were put into repair, the army reinforced, and the ordnance replaced.

The English ministry, sensible now of the importance of Gibraltar, sent out such strong reinforcements to Sir John Leake's squadron, that the French fleet quickly disappeared, and Marshal Tessé, having lost 10,000 men during the operations of this siege, at last withdrew his troops from the trenches, and formed a blockade across the isthmus, to prevent the garrison from ravaging the country.

Gibraltar was now stronger than before the siege, and it continued quiet until the year

1720, when the Spaniards, who had assembled a formidable force in Gibraltar Bay, for the avowed purpose of relieving Ceuta, then besieged by the Moors, would probable have succeeded in surprising the fortress, the garrison of which at that time was very weak, if the governor of Minorca had not received intelligence of the posture of affairs, and hastened to its assistance.

Their scheme proving abortive, Gibraltar remained unmolested until 1736, when the Spaniards assembled an army at Algeziras, and a camp having been formed at St. Roque, preparations were made for the attack of the garrison. The siege continued during four months, when it was given up in consequence of a general peace having been proclaimed.

Although the Spaniards had been thus so repeatedly baffled in their attempts to regain possession of this important fortress, they continued to look with a watchful eye for an opportunity of accomplishing what had been so long the ardent wish of the nation. Nothing favourable, however, for so great an enterprise occurred, and Gibraltar was suffered to repose, after the attacks that had been made against her, until the year 1779, when the court of Madrid, having espoused the cause of France, declared war against England, with an evident intention of attempting the recovery of Gibraltar. On

the 21st of June, the communication between the fortress and Spain was closed by an order from Madrid; and on the 6th of July despatches were received by the governor, General Eliott, with the intelligence that hostilities had commenced between the two countries. Having now made a slight sketch of the history of the fortress, and brought it down to the period when the last memorable siege was on the eve of commencing, I shall not perhaps be thought tedious in concluding it by a short capitulation of the principal events which occurred during the progress of a siege which drew upon it the attention of all Europe, and which has attained a celebrity unequalled by any of the events of more modern warfare.

It was on the 16th of July that the enemy first manifested openly their intentions, by blockading the port with a squadron, judiciously arranged, and which, being closely maintained, caused very great distress in the garrison, until it was relieved by the arrival of the British fleet, under Sir George Rodney, having on board a youthful hero, Prince William Henry, our present most gracious and beloved sovereign, who commenced his naval career at the opening of this memorable siege*.

* "The mention of his royal highness," observes Captain Drinkwater, "brings to my recollection a circumstance which

On the departure of the English fleet, the blockade was renewed by the enemy, and the garrison was in consequence much straitened, more particularly as the supplies from Barbary were now effectually interrupted. The appearance of the scurvy at the same time added very greatly to the distress which prevailed. The sufferings of the garrison and the inhabitants, in short, were as severe, if not more so, than before the arrival of Sir George Rodney; and things continued in this state until the 12th of April, 1781, when, to the great joy and comfort of all, Admiral Darby arrived with the grand British fleet, and a convoy of near a hundred vessels, laden with supplies of every kind. The satisfaction of the inhabitants was, however, of short duration, as the enemy, irritated at this second relief, commenced for the first

occurred whilst the fleet was in the bay. The Spanish admiral, Don Juan Langara, who had been taken prisoner, one morning visited Admiral Digby, to whose charge the prince was intrusted, and Don Langara was of course introduced to his royal highness. During the conference between the admirals Prince William retired; and when it was intimated that Don Juan wished to return, his royal highness appeared in the character of midshipman, and respectfully informed the admiral that the boat was ready. The Spaniard, astonished to see the son of a monarch acting as a petty officer, could not help exclaiming, 'Well does Great Britain merit the empire of the sea, when the humblest stations in her navy are supported by princes of the blood!' "

time a general bombardment upon the fortress, which was kept up with such effect, that by the end of May the town was little more than a heap of ruins.

The operations of the enemy during October seemed to demonstrate their intentions of besieging the garrison in form, and an ineffectual attempt was made in consequence to destroy the batteries.

By the end of November the enemy had completed his stupendous works, and then it was that the governor, General Eliott, conceived the bold plan of destroying at one blow what had cost the enemy such immense labour in their construction.

The celebrated sortie from Gibraltar, so distinguishing a feature in this siege, took place on the morning of the 27th of November: it was completely successful: the batteries were burnt, the works completely destroyed, and nothing but heaps of sands remained. The Spaniards for some days appeared quite confounded at the success of the late bold attack; when they appeared to rouse themselves, and commenced operations to restore their works, although they were greatly retarded by the fire of the garrison. The operations of the besiegers continued tedious during the winter. By the end of March, however, they had succeeded in restoring the works which had been destroyed,

although not without having sustained a very severe loss in killed and wounded.

On the 11th of April intelligence was received by the governor from Portugal, that great preparations were making at Cadiz, and the ports of the Mediterranean, for a most vigorous attack upon Gibraltar; and that the Duke de Crillon was to command with 20,000 French and Spanish troops, assisted by Monsieur d'Arcon, an eminent French engineer, and Admiral Moreno, with ten sail of the line, besides floating batteries, gun and mortar boats.

The truth of the above information was soon confirmed by the operations of the besiegers. New life seemed to be infused throughout their camps, and every thing denoted that they were preparing for the last grand act, which was to close the scene in so remarkable a manner.

On the 14th May their designs were at once manifest, by commencing the fitting up of several large ships at Algeziras as floating batteries for the grand attack, and their attention seemed wholly occupied with completing the preparations.

On the 26th a large fleet anchored in the bay, and landed reinforcements for the enemy's army to the amount of near 10,000 men, and on the 18th of June a French convoy, of upwards of sixty sail, arrived with a further reinforcement of troops.

The Duke de Crillon had now assumed the command of the combined forces, and the most formidable preparations were made for the attack. By the month of September, affairs seemed drawing to a crisis, and it was supposed the grand attack would not be deferred much longer.

On the night of the 8th the embrasures of the new batteries were unmasked, and the following morning a cannonade commenced with a volley of about sixty shells from the mortar batteries, succeeded by a general discharge of from about 170 pieces of ordnance, all of large calibre. A cannonade was at the same time kept up upon the fortress by nine line-of-battle ships. This formidable fire, which was increased by that from the gun and mortar boats and bomb-ketches, was continued at the average of 4000 rounds in the twenty-four hours, without, however, occasioning any very material damage to the garrison. On the morning of the 12th, reports were received of the appearance of a large fleet to the westward, and shortly afterwards the combined fleets of France and Spain entered the bay and came to an anchor.

There was now assembled in the Bay of Gibraltar a more powerful armament than had probably ever been brought against any fortress. Forty-seven sail of the line, ten battering-ships carrying 212 guns, and deemed invincible, in-

numerable frigates, xebeques, bomb-ketches, cutters, besides gun and mortar boats, and smaller craft for disembarkation. On the land side were most stupendous batteries and works, protected by an army of 40,000 men, commanded by a general of the highest military reputation, who was attended by two princes of the blood-royal of France, and a host of nobility assembled to witness the reduction of a fortress which had for such a number of years defied every effort made to retake it.

To oppose the above seemingly overwhelming force, there was a garrison which consisted of scarcely more than 7000 men, who were, however, now veterans, and who, from the length of the siege, which had now continued full three years, had been gradually prepared for the great event on the eve of approach. It may here be as well to mention the construction of the battering-ships, on the success of which the enemy seemed to place such reliance. These formidable engines were fortified on the larboard side, six or seven feet thick, with green timber, bolted with iron, cork, junk, and raw hides, carrying guns of large calibre, and bomb-proof on the top, with a descent for the shells to slide off.

On the morning of the 13th of September, the memorable day on which this celebrated attack was made, the whole force of the combined fleets were assembled ready for operations.

About seven o'clock, some motions were observed amongst the shipping, and shortly afterwards the battering-ships got under weigh, with a gentle breeze from the N. W. There being now no longer any doubt as to their intentions, the town batteries were manned, and the grates and furnaces for heating shot ready lighted. Thus prepared, the garrison had leisure to observe the enemy's evolutions. About nine o'clock, the ten battering-ships bore down in admirable order for their several stations, the admiral, in a two-decker, mooring about nine hundred yards of the king's bastion. The whole were completely moored in little more than ten minutes. The cannonade that now commenced was tremendous and extraordinary; four hundred pieces of the heaviest artillery were playing, if the expression may be allowed, at the same moment; while the showers of shot and shells, which were directed from the land batteries, the battering-ships, and, on the other hand, from the various works of the fortress, exhibited a scene to which it would be difficult to find a parallel in later warfare. The wonderful construction of the battering-vessels seemed to bid defiance to the power of the heaviest ordnance. The largest shells frequently rebounded from the tops of them, while the thirty-two pound shot seemed to make scarcely any impression upon their hulls.

It was about the middle of the day that the firing of red-hot shot commenced from the garrison, although the artillery officers themselves, at this period, were doubtful as to the effects of it. For some hours, both the attack and defence were supported so equally, as to render it difficult to say which of the parties evinced a superiority in the cannonade. In the afternoon, however, the aspect of affairs began to change considerably: the smoke which had been observed to issue from the upper part of the flag ship increased, notwithstanding the constant application of water, and the admiral's second was soon in a similar condition; confusion was apparent on board several of the vessels; and by seven or eight o'clock in the evening their cannonade almost entirely ceased. About an hour after midnight, the battering-ship which had sustained the greatest injury, and which had been frequently on fire the preceding day, was completely in flames, and by two o'clock she appeared as one continued blaze from stem to stern. A ship to the southward was also on fire, but did not burn with such rapidity. The light thrown out on all sides by the flames enabled the artillery to point the guns with the greatest precision: whilst the rocks and surrounding objects were highly illuminated, forming, with the constant flashes of the cannon of the fortress, a mingled scene both of sublimity and terror. Between three and four

o'clock, six of the other battering ships indicated the efficacy of the red-hot shot, and the approaching day promised to reward the efforts of the garrison with one of the completest defensive victories on record. About five o'clock in the morning, the flames having reached the magazine of one of the battering ships to the northward, it blew up with a dreadful explosion, and, in a quarter of an hour, another in the centre of the line met with a similar fate. Of the six ships which were still in flames, three blew up before eleven o'clock, and the other three burnt down to the water's edge; their magazines having been wetted by the enemy before they had been abandoned. There were now only two battering ships remaining, and endeavours were made to save them, as glorious trophies of the success of the day. One of them, however, unexpectedly burst out in flames, and blew up with a terrible explosion; and it being found impracticable to save the other, it was burnt in the afternoon.

Thus ended the memorable attack upon Gibraltar by the combined forces of France and Spain, which may be termed the finishing stroke of the siege; for, although it was protracted some time longer, nothing of importance was attempted, and it was evident that the enemy, after so complete a failure, now despaired

of gaining possession by force of arms of Gibraltar.

On the 2nd of February, letters from the Duke de Crillon informed the governor that the preliminaries of a general peace had been signed between Great Britain, France, and Spain; and on the 5th, the blockade by sea being discontinued, notice was proclaimed to the garrison that the port of Gibraltar was again free.

If we regard the importance attached to the possession of this fortress, the repeated attempts that had been in vain made to reduce it, the interest excited throughout Europe on this last occasion, and the stupendous and extraordinary means employed by the enemy to accomplish their object, we shall find nothing parallel with it in modern warfare. The siege continued three years, seven months, and twelve days, during which the conduct of the garrison, under most trying circumstances, is entitled to the warmest praise; while a most brilliant example will be handed down to posterity of what the British artillery is capable of effecting.

During the close blockade, fresh meat was as high as 4*s.* 10*d.* per lb.; the following being the prices at which some of the other articles of provision, &c., were sold during the siege:— A calf's head and feet, 1*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*; a calf's

pluck, 14*s.* 7½*d.*; hind quarter of sheep, 7*l.* 10*s.*; head and feet of a sheep, 14*s.* 7½*d.*; bullock's head, without tongue, 1*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.*; a goat's head, 8*s.* 7½*d.*; onions, per lb., 2*s.* 6*d.*; a cabbage, 1*s.* 7½*d.*; a bunch of carrots and turnips, 5*d.*; a pint of milk and water, 1*s.* 3*d.* A live pig sold for 9*l.* 14*s.*, and a large sow or pig for upwards of £29; a goat, with a young kid, fetched near £12; an English milch cow was sold for fifty guineas, reserving to the seller a pint of milk every day, while she gave milk; while another cow was purchased by a Jew for sixty guineas, but the animal was in so feeble a state, that she dropped down dead before she had been removed far. These prices will sufficiently show the straits to which the inhabitants, and particularly those of the poorer classes, must have been reduced. The total loss of the garrison, during the period of the siege, in killed, dead of wounds, discharged on account of wounds, dead of sickness, discharged from incurable complaints, and deserted, amounted to 1231. The number of rounds fired by the enemy amounted to 258,387, and by the garrison, 205,328. The latter expended near 8000 barrels of powder; and the number of ordnance damaged and destroyed during the siege was fifty-three.

I had intended not to have remained more than a very few days at Gibraltar: at the end of three weeks, I still found myself on the Rock. An English traveller, indeed, when

once within the walls of the garrison, does not find it so easy a thing to make his escape from the kindness of the civilians, as well as of the military, who vie with each other in acts of friendship and hospitality towards him. From the merchants of Gibraltar, and in particular from my good friend, Mr. Duguid, at whose table I was almost a daily guest, I experienced nothing but uniform kindness and liberality; while the attention and assistance I received from Sir George Don not only rendered the stay I made within the fortress most agreeable, but greatly facilitated my journey both in Barbary, and subsequently through Spain.

Although I was again in Europe, yet it was at its very extremity, and I had now before me a long and difficult journey through the whole of Spain; the wildest parts of which I should be obliged to traverse before I could reach the south of France. When a traveller thus finds himself at Gibraltar, and wishes to get back to his own country, he is a little puzzled how to proceed, as, should circumstances prevent his going by sea, he has no other alternative than of making his way as well as he can, with every probability of being robbed more than once, across a tract of country, which in fact may be called a desert, and which being a continued succession of mountains, and without roads, he can only traverse on horseback.

This was now my case. A voyage from Gibraltar in the winter season appeared to me worse than a land journey, however bad it might be; and as I should necessarily pass through the whole of Spain from south to north, and have an opportunity of seeing the most interesting parts of it, I was not long in determining my route. Being alone, and understanding then but little of the language, a companion would have been not only agreeable, but of service to me, in the situation I was. I was, however, unsuccessful in meeting with one, and having waited a short time without being able to hear of any of the officers of the garrison proceeding overland to England, I made the few preparations necessary for my journey, and which consisted chiefly in getting a Spaniard for my guide, and a couple of horses for our conveyance; and these having been procured, I was ready for my journey.

CHAPTER VII.

Start from Gibraltar.—Guadiaro.—Gaucin.—View.—Andalusian Scenery.—The Palm Tree.—Crosses.—Robbers.—Arrival at Ronda.—Lodgings.—Town described.—Bridge.—Alameda.—Inhabitants.—Cueva del Gatto.—Continuation of Journey.—Ronda Mountains.—Burgos.—Mountain Venta.—Malaga.—Climate.—Velez Malaga.—Night Quarters.—Alhama.—Sierra Nevada.—Evening Scene.—Approach to Grenada.

It was a delightful morning in January, and about an hour after sunrise, when I mounted my horse, and, accompanied by my guide, proceeded slowly through the streets of Gibraltar, which already began to exhibit some signs of the approaching bustle of the day. When I speak of January, I do not mean that season which, in northern countries, congeals the constitutions of Englishmen, and other cold-blooded animals, but a January in Africa and the south of Spain, which is frequently as warm and genial as the month of May with us in England, and often more so. The neutral ground which we traversed on passing the walls of the garrison is a narrow neck of land between the Spanish lines and the fortress of Gibraltar,

washed by the bay on one side, and on the other by the Mediterranean. Its trifling elevation, the numerous shells in the very centre of it, and its general appearance, leave scarcely a doubt that in former ages it has been entirely covered by the ocean, and that Gibraltar was then a high isolated rock.

A stranger, and particularly an Englishman, travelling on horseback, as he is obliged to do in most parts of Spain, will find it not only very convenient, but almost indispensable, to adopt the costume of the country; consisting of the small round Spanish hat and short jacket: these I made use of, and continued to do so during the whole of my journey through Spain. I might here expatiate, without any feelings of vanity, on the appearance both of my Rozinante and its rider; for in truth it was little calculated to excite admiration, and sufficiently mean and sorry, as I hoped, to allow us to pass unnoticed, instead of attracting the particular attention of a class of roving gentlemen travellers, who are so frequently met with in the south of Spain in particular. As for my luggage, it was contained in a pair of saddle-bags; and this, with about a doubloon in my pocket, constituted all my moveable property. It was not, indeed, advisable to carry more, for the above reasons.

The road, after passing the Spanish lines, proceeded across the remainder of the sandy

isthmus for about three miles, when we reached the foot of the mountains, and kept along the shores of the Mediterranean, which here present nothing striking, for a short distance, when we directed our steps inland. The beautiful gum cistus was here in great profusion; it was now in flower, and almost as luxuriant as I had observed it in Barbary. As in the latter country, the surface was covered chiefly with the palmita, or low palm-bush, which, as in Morocco, is made to serve a variety of useful purposes. Having proceeded a short distance, we passed two round towers; at the last of which was a military post, where I was obliged to produce my passport. These towers, which are met with at intervals along the Spanish coast, are used for the prevention of smuggling, and are similar in appearance to those seen along the shores of Barbary. During the periods when the country was at war with the piratical states of Barbary, these towers, which have existed from the time of the Moors, were of great service in enabling the Spaniards to descry the approach of the barbarians, and in particular of the Algerine cruisers, whose bold and daring attacks kept the inhabitants of the coast of the Mediterranean in constant dread and apprehension.

We now reached the banks of the Guadiaro, and having forded it, we had not proceeded far before we again fell in with the river, and con-

tinued our course along its bed. This was dry, with the exception of the main channel, but which, from the extreme drought of the season, contained merely a small but rapid stream, bubbling harmoniously over the pebbles which interrupted its course. The Guadiaro rises in the mountain chain above Ronda, through which town it dashes, and falls into the Mediterranean a short distance below where we had crossed it. The entire breadth of the channel in some parts is very considerable, and, from the marks of devastation it exhibited, must form in the rainy season the bed of a wide and furious river. We now reached the foot of the mountains; at the base of which was situated a pretty looking habitation, bordered by the river, and shaded by a luxuriant orange grove, loaded with fruit.

Having left the river, we began to ascend in order to reach Gaucin, which soon appeared almost perpendicular above our heads, perched on the top of a lofty mountain. More remote, and situated in an elevated cleft of the lofty and precipitous Sierra Cassare, the small white Moorish-looking town of Cassare was pointed out to me by my guide. The ascent to Gaucin was so excessively steep and rugged that it required the utmost efforts of our beasts to surmount it; and it was only at the expiration of a couple of hours that we were enabled to reach the small town, and, crawling with difficulty up a

miserable kind of steeply hanging street, reached the door of the posada, the appearance of which was any thing but prepossessing.

The situation of Gaucin is equally remarkable as that of Vejer or Medina Sidonia. Like them the houses composing the town, if it can be so called, hang clustering round the crest of the mountain, and are surrounded by the ruins of a Moorish castle, perched on the highest point of the rock. The view from this is magnificently fine and commanding, stretching beyond Europe, and comprising a considerable extent of the African coast, with its savage impenetrable barrier of lofty mountains. The lateness of the hour enabled me, however, to enjoy but a transient view of the fading landscape before me, and, ere long, the alpine ridge, the silver course of the Guadiaro, winding far below, and the distant main, which just before had been tinted with the glow of evening, were quickly half veiled in night, and vanished as I gazed.

I returned to the posada, where, having despatched with a good appetite what had been prepared for my supper, I whiled away the time with a cigar for my only companion, and then laid myself down on a mattress, thankful for what I had met with, and which really was good enough, hungry and tired as I was, to make a more fastidious person than myself very comfortable. We mounted our horses at an early

hour, and left Gaucin, to pursue our journey to Ronda. The estimated distance is seven leagues, which, in point of time and fatigue, may be considered fully equal to double that through a level country, as the road throughout the entire journey proceeds through the very centre of the mountain chain; the track being exceedingly precipitate and difficult, in particular for loaded beasts.

After leaving Gaucin the ascent is steep and lengthened; and at the distance of about a mile, when the traveller looks back upon the steps he has been slowly tracing, a singularly striking view is obtained of Gaucin; the elevated pointed crag, on which the old castle is perched, forming a most picturesque foreground, from whence the eye at once glances upon the minute windings of the Guadiaro far below. On reaching the extreme elevation of the road, I once more looked back, and saw, for the last time, the lofty fortress of Gibraltar, its rugged form softened by distance; while my straining eyes could just discern the dark summits of the Barbary mountains peeping wildly and mysteriously through the haze of the atmosphere. We are inclined to linger both with pleasure and regret when beholding, for the last time, the features of an interesting country; but how greatly the latter feeling is increased when coupled with

recollections of acts of past friendship and kindness from those we are leaving behind! How little did I think that from this distance I was gazing upon a spot about to become the scene of pestilence and horror! and that instead of its streets being crowded, as I had so lately beheld them, with a busy and industrious population, they would, ere long, be encumbered only with the dead-cart carrying to their last abode those whom I had left in the enjoyment of health and existence*.

The morning was delightfully fine, as we pursued our journey; and the mild and balmy fragrance of the air already indicated the approach of a spring unpreceded by any winter. The road for some miles passing along the high ridge of the Sierra enables the traveller, from his elevated situation, to survey the country on both sides of him, the ground sloping precipitously to the valleys below him. The industry of the mountaineers was strikingly shown here, notwithstanding the natural difficulties which presented themselves to agriculture. The very summits and steepest slopes of the mountains were cultivated, and numerous parties

* These observations allude to the yellow fever, which, but a short time after my departure, broke out, and made such frightful ravages in Gibraltar.

of peasants busily employed below us, in pruning the vines; in some parts they were engaged in ploughing in situations so steep that it seemed scarcely possible for either man or beast to be able to stand. The stones and masses of rock that had been loosened and rolled down from the upper parts had been collected with infinite labour, and placed in large heaps. Every thing denoted more activity and perseverance than I fancied the Spaniard had been capable of. Hitherto I had only seen him broiling in the sun—idle, because not compelled by actual want to work; but now, under different circumstances, I found him quite an altered animal, and, being no longer surrounded by a soil rich and easy of tillage, obliged in self-defence to be industrious. As climate assimilates a good deal in all mountain-countries, so does the character and habits of the people—the natural difficulties are too great to admit of idleness or inactivity: to industry, content, and little communication with districts more favoured by nature, may thus be mainly ascribed the virtues and qualities which so generally distinguish the inhabitants.

The whole of the distance from Gibraltar to Ronda is replete with interest, not only from the beauty of the scenery, but the singular situation of the numerous small mountain-towns and villages, hanging sometimes midway up the

steep slopes of the lofty Sierra, or at others perched on some towering crag, and bidding defiance to any attack; while their snow-white brilliancy, glistening as they appear at a distance under a clear southern sky, is finely contrasted with the dark evergreen masses from amid which they peep. Here and there the lofty palm-tree is seen to soar, completing the eastern character, which is so observable in Andalusia from similarity of climate and vegetation. In Northern Barbary, by which I mean Morocco, the palm or date-tree is by no means common; and it is only in the southern parts of the empire that the fruit attains any perfection, the finest dates, of which there are several kinds, coming from Tafilet, on the borders of the great desert.

In Andalusia the palm-tree is frequently met with, and it appeared to me to be of a finer growth than the few I had observed on the African coast; which may be owing to the greater care bestowed upon them, particularly by the monks, to whom they are a valuable source of emolument. These worthy fathers, who know full well how to turn the ignorance and superstition of the people to the best account, gain considerable sums by the sale of the palm-leaves, which they pretend are a preservative against lightning. Fischer informs us, that in Valencia, where the cultivation of

the palm-tree is particularly attended to, the annual average produce of each is frequently four arrobas, or one hundred pounds, of dates, from the stones of which the plants are raised, and which are transplanted when three or four years old, the tree sometimes attaining a height of fifty and sixty feet. In spring the head is tied up, to keep the branches white; and they are also protected by a covering of rush-grass placed at the top of the tree. These are used for baskets, mats, and other purposes, and are also sent to all parts of the kingdom for the ceremonies of Palm Sunday.

We were now in the very centre of the Sierra de Ronda; and, as we advanced, cultivation disappeared. The mountain-sides were no longer covered with wood, but presented only naked masses of rock, which had rolled down with headlong force from the upper ridges, and overwhelmed every thing in their way. The view was barren and gloomy in the extreme, and the sight of the numerous crosses that we passed, denoting where some unfortunate person had been murdered, and begging the prayers of the passer for the repose of his soul, did not contribute to render either the view or my own thoughts more cheerful. My companion when questioned respecting them was evidently reluctant in his answers, and, as I fancied, rather studiously avoided taking any notice of them *en*

passant. Perhaps, however, he was familiarized to the sight of these mementos; or it might be that he felt ashamed that a stranger should become acquainted with the custom his countrymen had of cutting each other's throats.

The number of these melancholy memorials, indeed, cannot fail to impress the traveller with surprise and horror. In Andalusia in particular, they are so numerous on all the roads, that the traveller needs no surer indication of the part of Spain he is in, and of the character of its inhabitants. On our way from Gibraltar to Ronda, I observed nine of these crosses; and I should, I think, be not very incorrect in estimating them, on the average, as one per league throughout Andalusia. In many parts of it, indeed, through which I travelled, they occur with such regularity, that a stranger ignorant of the language and causes that had placed them by the road side might well suppose they were meant to indicate the distances*. Since leaving Gaucin

* The murderous and revengeful dispositions of the lower orders in Spain may be estimated from the fact, that although the population differs little from that of England and Wales, actual returns have proved that for every person convicted of stabbing in the latter countries, eighty convictions take place, on the average, in Spain, and that in a country where probably not more than one in twenty is apprehended; the proportion not being greater on either those who are convicted, if taken, or of those who suffer the penalty of the law, if convicted. From returns for one year alone, it appears that 1223 murders

we had not seen a single habitation; and as for human beings, we had not met with a soul for several miles. The loneliness of these mountains, and the road lying through them, make the part we were now in very convenient for robbers, who, when they have obtained their booty, can secure a safe retreat, from the impracticability of pursuit, owing to the nature of the country. It was more than probable, although we were now only two or three miles from Ronda, that my pockets at least would be in some way lightened by the good offices of these cavalleros. I had, however, not been unmindful of some preparations in anticipation of a visit, although of a different kind from what are usually made by travellers on occasions like this.

In Barbary I had considered myself as a mere parcel booked and delivered by the higher powers into the charge of those whose heads would have been answerable for the loss of it. The case was somewhat different in Spain, the transmission of the package being only to be secured by its being liable to the payment of certain tolls or dues, and against which it was

and 1773 attempts at murder took place! What a happy land to live in!—and what a pity it is that a few of the disaffected and discontented of our own country should not enjoy the fruits of it, and learn to appreciate as they deserve the blessings of a good and popular monarch, of a free constitution, and of protection and security from the laws.

useless disputing with the proper officers appointed as receivers on the part of a very large if not very respectable body of the community. In either case fire-arms were unnecessary, and therefore I had long ago very carefully deposited a bran-new double-barrelled detonating pistol, made purposely for my tour by that celebrated maker Mr. Fray of Leicester, at the very bottom of my saddle-bags, and where, covered with sundry shirts, and divers other articles of raiment, it lay so secure and snug, that if I had been at my last extremity, it would have been of no manner of use to me. To tell the truth, I, for one at least, have a horror, to use a fashionable phrase, at the sight either of mine own or another person's blood, to say nothing of the pain of a wound, the expense of curing it, and the time lost upon the road in consequence. And then the folly of tossing up for your life for trumpery which you cannot possibly take with you, should you be thus suddenly arrested in this your short worldly tour, and be compelled by a poniard or a bullet to set out at a moment's warning, and with such little time for preparation, upon a far longer and more dangerous journey.

For my own part, I feel more charitably disposed than usual on these occasions, and have little difficulty in persuading myself, that a poor wretch who will so readily risk his life for a

dollar or two must be very badly off, and therefore a worthy object of benevolence. Acting upon this principle, I had ready for the first poor applicant a doubloon in gold, to make the gift the more satisfactory, and which, with the exception of four silver dollars, constituted the whole of my travelling wealth. This I was determined to give freely, and without being in any way pressed, the instant I was asked for it—ay, or even before I was asked; for wherein consists the merit, I pray, if a thing be given with reluctance, and, as it were, wrung and extorted from you? Besides, the delay even of a few moments in these matters may very materially alter the complexion of affairs, in more senses than one. To speak more seriously, a traveller, and in particular an English one, if he should be quite alone, as was my case, will find it more advisable, not only to travel unarmed, but as quietly and as unostentatiously as possible. The latter of these, at least, will not only apply, as far as my experience goes, to other countries besides Spain, but, if observed as a general rule throughout life, will save a wonderful deal of plague and trouble. It is astonishing what sacrifices people make of ease, convenience, and even safety, merely through a display of a little miserable vanity. The person who, when shooting, forces his way through a thick

cover, will be sure to bleed for it; whereas, by creeping along slowly, but determinedly, he will proceed with comparative ease, and escape being scratched. The same may be said of travelling generally; and I suspect that, on all occasions, it will be found much the best plan to creep one's way through the world, however groveling the plan may seem.

To return to the road: whilst jogging along at a smart foot-pace, the common rate of travelling in the country, we suddenly encountered, not a band of robbers, but a portly, well-fed ecclesiastic, journeying on a mule, and followed by a peasant, who led a sumpter-mule loaded with baggage. On our meeting, we were stopped by the divine, who warned us against proceeding, informing us, in the same breath, with much agitation, that he had just been stopped by robbers not a hundred yards from the spot where we then stood, and who, it appeared, had succeeded in extracting from his reverence's pockets something of greater value than Gil Blas found in the purse of the travelling friar. The good man feelingly deplored the loss of some silver dollars, which these unholy plunderers had laid their sacrilegious hands upon. I was glad to hear, however, both for his sake as well as on my own account, that he had suffered no ill-treatment, and, with the exception of the liberty

they had taken with his pocket, he had sustained no other loss, his baggage having remained untouched.

I could not think, however, to escape so well; for if they had made no scruple in attacking one of his holy cloth, what had I, heretic and layman as I was, to expect? I already beheld, not only my doubloon quietly appropriated, but myself trudging back to Gibraltar, after having seen all my clothes and effects marched off for the charitable purpose of administering to the necessities of the ragged mountaineers of the Sierra de Ronda. We were not a little puzzled what course to pursue: we could not reach Ronda by any other road, and to retrace our steps, or remain where we were, would have been quite as bad as going on, as there was every probability that the gentry were all this time watching our proceedings. We therefore determined that the best plan was to continue our journey, and trust to the chance of the party having already retreated up the mountains with their booty, before we had appeared in view. Having, therefore, thanked the holy man for his friendly warning, we parted, and continued our way, putting as good a face upon things as possible, and affecting the utmost indifference, in order that our friends among the rocks might suppose that we did not care even a Malaga fig for them, and fancy, from our *nonchalance*, either

that we were too well armed to be afraid of them, or that we were two poor vagrants, who had little to lose, which latter supposition our appearance might well have warranted.

Whatever might be the cause of it, we however passed by the spot without interruption, or having seen a human being; and the mountain opening, we shortly, to our great satisfaction, came within view of Ronda, situated on a lofty perpendicular cliff, at the distance of about a league. It wanted yet about an hour to vespers when we reached the foot of this secluded mountain-town safe and sound; and both men and horses in good spirits and with better appetites, from our not having halted since we had left Gaucin. I was now somewhat at a loss where to take up my quarters, as I found out there was nothing like an inn in the whole town: it is true there was a posada, which by some travellers has been translated an inn, although a Spanish posada and an English inn bear almost as much resemblance to each other as an Irish whiskey cabin would do either to the Swan at Bedford, the Penrhyn Arms near Bangor, or, in short, to any other of the many excellent houses of accommodation on the road which constitute the luxury of English travelling.

With regard to the posada at Ronda, as I never saw it, I shall say no more than that when my companion, who was a Spanish muleteer,

and by no means particular in his habits, assured me I should not be satisfied with it, I gave entire credit to what he said, and followed him, without hesitation, to a private house kept by a good lady who would, he said, make me very comfortable.

The room in which I had taken up my quarters was as usual quite unencumbered with furniture, and destitute of even a chair, table, or bed; but these conveniences, when I had begun to settle myself and baggage a little, were dragged up-stairs by the brawny arms of a short, thick-set maid-servant, whom my hostess, for my sins, had appointed as my attendant. This damsel, who was any thing but remarkable for her attractions, so closely resembled the Asturian nymph, whose charms so strangely perplexed the enamoured knight of La Mancha, that I need only refer the reader to the exploits of this personage for a further description of her person: like the latter, the good Maritornes of Ronda was active and obliging, and as scrupulous an observer of her word: I easily perceived, indeed, that the honest creature wished only for an opportunity to convince me of her nice regard for her honour in that respect. For my own part, however, hungry and tired as I was, having ridden and fasted throughout the day, I felt, I own, more sensible of the charms of a dainty fricassee and a bottle of light red wine, than alive to the temptations thrown out

on the other hand. For my indifference, however, I was severely punished; and when, after having finished my supper, I was going to seek the enjoyment of my usual evening companion, I found my fair attendant had already transferred her affections elsewhere, and stolen every cigar I was possessed of. A loss of this kind, under the circumstances, required some share of philosophy to support. Threats or remonstrances were however unavailing, and I was obliged to content myself with looking forward to the friends I should meet with at Malaga to repair it.

The well-known saying "Quien no ha visto Sevilla no ha visto maravilla," may with equal truth be applied to the town where I now was. Ronda, indeed, may well be termed one of the wonders of Spain. Replete as this country, and Andalusia in particular, is with every thing to engage the interest of the traveller, still Ronda will most forcibly rivet his attention. He may gaze with delight on the fair bay of Cadiz, survey the snow of the Granada Alps from the heights of the Alhambra, or look up towards the gloomy passes of the Sierra Morena from old Cordova's walls, and still remember, with enthusiastic feelings of delight, the extraordinary features of this romantic spot.

The town is situated in the centre of the high chain of mountains known by the name of the Sierra de Ronda, whose lofty peaks are seen

from Gibraltar and Cadiz, and when tinged by the western sun present a magnificent addition to the evening landscape, inspiring the stranger with an eager desire to penetrate their distant recesses. Encircled by the rocky chain of the Sierra, and accessible only to the plodding steps of the muleteer, few places appear to the stranger so secluded and so cut off from the world as this little Alpine capital. When, after a journey of two days from Gibraltar, entirely through the mountains, the traveller first obtains a view of Ronda through the passes of the Sierra, his curiosity cannot fail to be strongly excited on descrying its situation. The town is built along the edge of a tremendous cliff, perpendicular as a wall, at the base of which, several hundred feet below, the Guadiaro dashes wildly along, after intersecting it in its course. This is the most singular feature of the place. The precipitous crag on which the town of Ronda is situated has been cleft by some strange convulsion into two parts, forming the divisions known by the name of the old and new town, and which are connected by a modern bridge, no less remarkable for its architecture than for the extraordinary chasm across which the bold ingenuity of man has thrown it. From this the eye looks down with sudden astonishment, and even horror, on a dark, narrow, winding gulf, at a most fearful depth beneath, at the bottom

of which it just distinguishes the foaming water of the Guadiaro forcing itself between black gigantic masses of rock. One might, with little effort of the imagination, fancy it the river Styx, and the scene in the close vicinity of the infernal regions. On the opposite side of the bridge the view is not less extraordinary, although of a more cheerful character, the rocky chasm widening, and the Guadiaro, far below the spectator, forming a succession of falls, and turning several small mills in its headlong course.

The town is more considerable than its situation would lead one to suppose, containing several churches and convents, and a tolerably spacious plaza. Many of the streets of the new town are wide and regularly built. The Alameda, in particular, is worthy of notice: it consists of handsome avenues of trees, forming a promenade which in summer must be delightful in the sultry climate of Andalusia. The stranger, quite unconscious of what is about to present itself in so sudden and extraordinary a manner, walks heedlessly along whilst admiring this pleasant retreat. On approaching the extremity of the walk, he perceives it bordered by a neat iron railing, beyond which a distant view of the opposite mountains begins to unfold itself. What is his astonishment upon reaching this light and elegant barrier, and placing his hands mechanically upon it! He starts suddenly

back at the glimpse of what he sees beneath: a second look gives him more confidence, and he then surveys with feelings of wonder not unmixed with alarm the scene deepening far below him. By looking over the railing, which is placed at the very edge of the precipice, the eye glances down a perpendicular cliff of several hundred feet, at the base of which the Guadiaro dashes swiftly along; while, from the immense height at which he peeps cautiously over, the roar of its cataracts rises upon the ear with merely the sound of a faint lulling hum. The Alameda of Ronda may justly be entitled one of the wonders of Andalusia, and, indeed, I have scarcely ever seen any thing more suddenly and singularly striking.

The inhabitants are not unworthy the traveller's observation. They are a jovial, light-hearted, and manly race; and he must be blind indeed who is not forcibly struck with the marked difference between the Andalusian of the plains and the native of Ronda. The same frankness and independence of spirit which characterize the free Alpine sons of the north also distinguish these mountaineers, although varied in some measure by the effects of an ardent southern sky. In the lowland cities and towns, and indeed generally throughout Spain, the dress of the middle and better classes scarcely differs, at this day, from the rest of Europe. At

Ronda, however, the eye of the stranger is delighted to observe the national costume of the country still in use; and, in place of the unmeaning head-piece which the equality of modern times has placed equally on the skulls of high and low, of beggars and of lords, the smart, low-crowned, Spanish hat, encircled with a broad band of velvet, and trimmed with neat rosettes, is worn by all; while the short, tasty jacket, and the jet lamb-skin waistcoat, ornamented with gold filigree buttons, give an air of gay and picturesque variety to the costume.

The Serranos, or mountaineers of the Sierra de Ronda, are a fine spirited race, fierce as the eagle which soars around them, and, like it, ever on the watch to pounce down upon any enemy that may dare to invade their native rocks. During the periods when war raged throughout the Spanish peninsula, and its flames even spread as far as the remote chain of the Andalusian mountains, the Serranos of Ronda were foremost in defence of their independence; and when King Joseph and his troops, during the siege of Cadiz, had the temerity to penetrate even to the town of Ronda, he received ample aud fatal proofs of the love of freedom and the unconquerable spirit which has in all times distinguished the inhabitants of these mountains, whether Christian or Mahometan. The Moors of the Sierra de Ronda, in particular, were a

warlike and adventurous race; and when Andalusia, the 'last hold' of the Arabs, was crowded with a Mussulman population, and the crescent was about to bend before the cross, after the Arab empire had flourished in Spain during so many centuries, the Ronda mountains were the scene of numerous fierce and chivalric encounters between the Moors and Christians. Ronda was at last taken, in 1485, by the warlike Roderigo Ponce de Leon, Marquis of Cadiz.

The environs of Ronda and the passes of the neighbouring Sierras will be found well worthy of the traveller's notice; and a day in particular spent in visiting the Cueva del Gatto (the Cat's Cavern) will repay the trouble of reaching this curious natural cavity. The distance to the farthest entrance of the cavern is about a couple of leagues, which, however, took me some time, from the road or track being, for the most part, extremely rugged and difficult.

On leaving Ronda, after a lengthened and gradual descent, you reach the Guadiaro, and crossing it again ascend. The winding valley which passes at the foot of the high crag which has been before described is luxuriantly planted with orchards, forming an agreeable contrast to the barren surrounding rocks of the Sierra. The climate of Ronda being, on account of its elevated situation, much more temperate than the rest of Andalusia generally,

the apple succeeds very well, and the produce is abundant in the sheltered valleys. In a hot country like Spain, an apple is considered, and not without reason, as great a rarity and luxury as a pine-apple in England. On this account the Ronda apples have obtained a celebrity which causes them to be sent to distant parts of the country, as well as along the African coasts.

On leaving the Guadiaro, a broken path traverses a wild and dreary tract of mountain inhabited chiefly by the eagle, which is frequently seen perched on the brow of a precipice as the traveller passes below. The Sierra de Ronda abounds with these majestic birds and numerous wild animals, the chase of which affords constant occupation to the hardy mountaineer. The Ronda bulls, in particular, are renowned for their fierceness and strength; and in no part of Spain are the bull-fights conducted with more national spirit and splendour. After having proceeded for some time through a wild and desolate rocky tract, we reached the vicinity of the Cueva del Gatto, and alighting from our horses, which it is here necessary to do, we pursued on foot the course of a small stream. This, as it approached the cavern, was completely hemmed by walls of high precipitous rocks, whose very aspect, added to the twilight gloom and deathlike stillness of the scene, would seem to point out the

spot as a fitter resort for wandering spirits than mortal steps. The curious traveller pursues his way towards the mouth of the cavern, scrambling with difficulty for near an hour over the smooth huge blocks of rock which encumber the channel. Here and there he is obliged to wade through the crystal waters, which glide onwards with imperceptible motion towards the cavity, which is shortly seen yawning wide to receive them. The scene is here very impressive, wild, solitary, and savage; the dark lofty rocks which tower above and almost exclude the light of day seeming as if placed as gloomy portals to the infernal regions. We were but a few yards from the mouth of the cavern: the depth of the water precluded a nearer approach; and there being no longer any footing to be had on the steep smooth sides, I was obliged to satisfy my curiosity, in my endeavour to penetrate the gloom of the mysterious cavern, at the distance I stood.

Although the body of water that flowed in was not considerable, on account of the dryness of the preceding summer, yet the appearance of the channel denoted the reverse during the rainy season, which was now at hand. It is by no means an easy task, after having reached the Cueva del Gatto, to make one's escape from it: the approach is so long and laborious that it requires some resolution, as

well as patience, to retrace one's steps; and I preferred attempting to ascend at once from the gloomy chasm in which I was engulfed by a steeply inclined slope near the mouth of the cavern, and which appeared to have been formed by the rolling down of the rock above. In this I succeeded, though not without some difficulty and hazard, and once more gained the upper regions, to my great satisfaction.

After witnessing the singular disappearance of this mountain stream, it is well worth while to visit the spot where it again emerges to light, at the distance of about a league. This occupies near an hour on horseback, on account of a considerable circuit it is necessary to make in order to accomplish it. We descended the mountain, and, reaching the Guadiaro, followed its clear waters until we found ourselves opposite the channel of rather a considerable stream, uniting with the former, and which appeared to issue from a lofty crag at the distance scarcely of a gunshot. This is the lower and principal entrance of the Cueva del Gatto; but it was only by fording the Guadiaro, which is shallow, and climbing up the tangled sides of the rocks, that I found myself on a large jutting mass of rock and close to the mouth of the cavern, although separated by the torrent which comes boiling from its black yawning jaws. The contrast between the two extremities of

this lengthened subterranean tunnel is sufficiently striking. At the upper entrance, as I have already mentioned, the stream, which is inconsiderable, steals quietly and imperceptibly into the bowels of the earth; while, at the lower cavity, to the surprise of the spectator, a river comes at once tumbling forth from the dark abyss with a loud roar of exultation at having escaped from its gloomy prison. The angry fall of this subterranean torrent, and the smooth placidity with which, a few yards below, it joins the delightful stream of the Guadiaro, united with the magnificently lofty dimensions of the cavern and the cliff above, form a scene exceedingly striking and picturesque. The steep precipitous rocks at the entrance, as at the upper cavern, admit only of a near view; though it would probably not be difficult, during the summer months, to effect an entrance by wading up the channel of the stream itself, but which the body of water was now too great to allow. The interior of the cavern, as far as the eye could penetrate its dark mysterious recesses, together with the huge masses of rock between which the torrent rushes forth, impart an air of fine gloomy grandeur to the spot. The quantity of water that issues thus from the bowels of the earth may be pretty well estimated, as the river on issuing from the cavern forms a fall of some feet, in one entire body; and taking at the same time

into consideration the stream which flows into the cavern, it must be very considerable, and superior, I should suppose, to the Guadiaro. The latter, indeed, on receiving so important an addition, assumes quite a different character, and dashes onward with proud and swelling waters. The distance from the lower cavern to Ronda took us full an hour and a half to accomplish, from the badness of the road the greater part of the way; and it was already dark before we had reached the town.

The bed of the Guadiaro above the Ponte Nueva is also deserving of a visit, and repays the fatigue of descending and ascending about a thousand steps cut in the rock. The entrance is through a private house. This, in the time of the Moors, must have been a habitation of consequence, from the arched excavations in the solid rock, which form different chambers overlooking the dark torrents of the river that hurries along this singularly deep chasm. This range of subterranean chambers was probably the summer residence of some Moorish family of distinction; and from its great depth, being some hundred feet below the surface of the street, the constant twilight that reigns, and the cool current of air that continually creeps over the icy waters of the Guadiaro, it must have formed a most delicious and luxurious retreat during the heats of summer. On de-

scending to the bed of the torrent, and directing the eye upwards, the appearance of this gloomy crevice, with the houses partly visible above at the edge of it, is very singular. To reach the cavern, which is one of the sources of the Guadiaro, it is necessary now to reascend, and, crossing the Ponte Vieja, again descend a lengthened flight of steps belonging to a mill at the corner of the bridge. On reaching the bottom, the cavity is seen from whence the Guadiaro flows from the rock with a stream clear as crystal and cold as ice, and unites with the other channel which proceeds, I was told, from the neighbouring Sierra.

I must now finish the sketch I have been giving of Ronda; which, imperfect as it is, may serve to give the reader some idea of the place, and induce the future traveller to direct his steps to a part of the Andalusian mountains little known and rarely visited except by the garrison of Gibraltar. Spain, of late years, has been in bad repute with travellers in general, and it must be owned not without reason; and of the few English tourists who now reach Madrid, the number is very limited indeed who think it worth their while to extend their travels to Gibraltar, or choose to endanger their bones as well as purse in order to visit Andalusia and gaze upon the African shores.

My saddle-bags were now ready packed for the journey, and having taken a cup of choco-

late, with the addition of something more substantial, behold us ready to mount our steeds, and bid adieu to Ronda and its frank and jovial sons. The good Maritornes, who began to have quite a regard for me, and, in spite of her little propensities, was really a worthy creature, could hardly return our parting salutation of "A dios" as we mounted our horses, so much she seemed to regret our departure.

It was the gray hour of early morn when we sallied forth from Ronda and took the road for Malaga. Although it had been light but a short time, we found a very considerable number of the lower orders assembled outside of the town, and engaged in conversation, as is their custom, previous to their dispersing and commencing the rural labours of the day: they were, in general, dark, handsome men, active, well-made fellows, every one having his capa thrown, after the Moorish manner, across the left shoulder. This kind of cloak, which the Andalusian peasant is scarcely ever seen without, serves him both the purposes of a blanket at night, and of an outward garment during the day when the weather is bad. In appearance it is like a rug, or piece of striped carpeting, being of a close impenetrable texture to keep out the wet, and not unlike the Moorish jelibea. It is, in fact, the poncho of South America, having simply a hole to receive the head; it has no sleeves, and, being

long and narrow, the body is protected from the rain, while the arms are left free and unconstrained. Some of these gentry, as we passed them, regarded us and our baggage very earnestly, and, as I fancied, somewhat wistfully, with their dark piercing eyes; and on our parts we took care to keep a sharp look-out, not only while we were in sight of them, but for some time afterwards.

We had now before us a journey of eleven long leagues to Malaga, entirely through the mountains and a country almost uninhabited. In Spain, as in other parts of the world where distance is estimated by individual judgment alone, and of course rather vaguely, the leagues are divided into long and short leagues, largas y cortas leguas, the former being often more than double the distance of the latter. In Andalusia, however, the league may in general be estimated at nearly four English miles. There had been a sharp frost during the night, and the ground was white and crisp under our horses' feet. On leaving Ronda the road gradually descended until we reached a valley, across which was stretched an ancient aqueduct of considerable extent, forming an exceedingly picturesque object. The sun soon shot upwards, gradually gilding the outlines of the mountain chain, and dispersing the volume of mist which rolled slowly along. Our prospects brightened with

the day, and we paced merrily along, my companion beguiling the way with the simple extempore melodies so characteristic of the Spanish muleteer, and which, setting as they do every principle of the art at defiance, create, from their extreme wildness and irregularity, connected with local circumstances, a charm of enthusiastic pleasure in the mind, which the most skilful and elaborate compositions would fail in producing. Beyond the valley, cultivation ceased, the traces of man were no longer visible, and we entered a wild solitary tract skirting the mountains, and thinly clothed with straggling cork-trees.

We now entered the Sierra, which occupied us for some hours in toiling up and down. This part of the chain is of considerable elevation, but uninteresting and sterile in the extreme, the mountain-heights being destitute of the slightest vegetation, while the lower grounds presented only a barren covering of millions of huge naked blocks which had been detached from the summits. Scarcely a trace of the animal creation appeared throughout this desolate region, save an eagle perched on the brow of some lofty cliff, or poised high in air, and glancing down upon his solitary empire beneath.

The track was so steep and broken that our progress was very slow, five hours having elapsed since our leaving Ronda, during which time we

had only accomplished five leagues. We had however reached the highest part of the chain, and from this point a most magnificent view opened itself suddenly through a narrow pass of the opposite one, which appeared to be of much greater elevation. The sides, which were finely wooded, presented a broad undulating surface, broken by innumerable wavy hollows, and exhibiting a very different character from the naked crags we had been toiling over. In the valley below us was the small town of Burgos, which, after a lengthened descent, and endless windings along the mountain side, we reached, and passed through it without halting. In appearance it was as miserable as the small towns usually are in Spain; and the only object that attracted my notice was the remains of its Moorish castle upon an eminence above it. Leaving Burgos we commenced the ascent of the opposite chain, which was equally difficult as what we had left behind: the scenery, however, was far more striking, the mountain sides being finely broken and wooded with ilex and cork-trees. An occasional glimpse of a straggling goat browzing on the edge of a precipice, or the wild cry of some mountain shepherd above us, completed the interest of the scene. Having proceeded for some distance, a range of mountains of considerable elevation and very precipitous extended themselves on our right,

rising abruptly from the part of the chain on which we now were. The track ran for a few miles parallel with their bases, until we had attained the highest part of this second chain, when the mountain ridge expanding unfolded a view strikingly beautiful and terminated by the waters of the Mediterranean, which at the distance of near thirty miles appeared like a broad track of azure light.

Apparently bordering upon the line of coast, two parallel ranges of lofty undulating mountains rose one above the other, while, far remote, the towering peaks of the Granada chain indistinctly crowned the whole. From the elevated point in which we stood, an uninterrupted view was obtained as far as Malaga, which from the distance could not be distinguished, although its rich and luxuriant surrounding vega was visible to the eye.

The sun had now sunk behind the western mountains; the last gleam of day soon faded in the horizon, and the haze of evening rendered the surrounding scenery more and more indistinct. By the time we reached the lonely venta of Vicario, on the side of the mountain, it was almost dark. Miserable as its appearance was, we could proceed no farther, and, alighting from our horses, proceeded to reconnoitre within. Our night's quarters, on our entering them, did not hold forth any great encouragement from the

appearance of things; and we had led in our beasts, and tied them up at one end of the venta, before a soul was seen or heard. We then groped our way to the other end of the building, which consisted but of one large desolate kind of room, or rather shed, and here we discovered mine host in a corner, more absorbed with his pipe, than troubling himself about his new comers. It was not without some difficulty that we roused him sufficiently to light a fire, and see and provide something in the way of provender for our famished beasts. With regard to ourselves, my guide, previous to our leaving Ronda, had warned me not to expect much in the shape of provisions on the road, and I had therefore prepared accordingly: I found, however, upon inquiry, that some eggs could be procured, and which, being quickly fried with a delicious rasher of Ronda ham, tasted so well, washed down with some draughts of mountain wine, that I was not sorry in reserving the greater portion of our cold supply for another emergency. My night's couch was, as usual, on the floor, a mattress being stretched for the purpose, the guide reposing by the side of the half-burnt embers, wrapped up in his cloak. Early in the morning we set off to pursue our journey to Malaga. The road from the venta continued in an uninterrupted descent, the view being diversified by the opposite range

of mountains, part of the chain which extends to Gibraltar, and whose lofty summits are a fine feature in the view from this fortress. Here and there a white cluster of buildings, rising on the mountain side, denoted some village; while just below the venta, on the opposite side of a deep mountain gulley, the old Moorish town of Casarebonela presented a most picturesque object.

After a descent of some hours, we reached the plains, and the country for some distance was bare and uninteresting. Approaching Malaga, the view received a fine addition in the appearance of the city, the cathedral, and the surrounding cortijos. We were now passing through the rich vega of Malaga, encircled by mountains whose sun-burnt slopes produce the luscious Pedro Ximenes and delicious Mountain wines. During the time of the Moors, the system of irrigation introduced by that enlightened race counterbalanced the heat of summer, and vegetation was uninterrupted. Ignorance and inactivity have, since that period, changed the appearance of the face of the country; and, notwithstanding the natural facilities given to rrigation, the vega of Malaga, particularly after the unusually dry season we had had, presented a parched and barren look, with scarcely a blade of grass on the pasture lands. We reached the city in good time in the afternoon; and although Mr. Kirkpatrick, the Hanoverian consul-general,

to whom I had a letter of introduction, pressed me warmly to make his spacious house in the Alameda my residence during the time I remained, I felt unwilling to intrude so far upon his kindness, and took up my quarters at a neighbouring hotel, the name of which I have forgotten, and which, to my surprise, I found both cleanly and comfortable.

As a commercial town, Malaga is well known, a considerable trade being carried on between it and our own country in dried and other fruits, wine, oil, &c. It is situated at the bottom of a deep bay of the Mediterranean, possessing a spacious port, and a magnificent mole of great length. Sheltered as it is by the lofty Sierras, and in this latitude, there are few parts of Spain that enjoy a more delightful climate than Malaga, and the adjoining vega or plain. The summer heats are certainly great, but are amply compensated by the enjoyment afforded by the other seasons: the air is then mild, balmy, and temperate; soft breezes are wafted from the Mediterranean, while the delicious fragrance diffused around by the varied productions of its fertile soil realise those descriptions of spring which the shivering children of the north are often inclined to believe to be founded on the imagination alone. The town, generally speaking, is ill built, although there are some parts of it which may be termed fine and even

magnificent, as the Alameda and adjoining quarter, the Plaza Mayor, &c. The cathedral, among other buildings, is deserving a visit.

Malaga is the depôt for the different delinquents and malefactors who, being collected from all parts of Spain, are shipped off from time to time to Ceuta, and the other Spanish settlements on the Barbary coast, though principally, I believe, to the former. Ceuta, I was informed, was now quite overflowing; this, indeed, may be easily conceived, when the diligence of the Spanish government in supplying these receptacles of human misery is considered. In consequence of this, Malaga was now crowded with some thousands of wretched victims called "presidiarios," waiting until room should be found for them in this great African prison; they were to be seen chained together in long files, and working on the neighbouring roads. When the several periods of their banishment to Africa have expired, they are landed at Malaga; and being set free, numbers have from time to time remained. Additions of this nature to a population never of the purest kind may easily be conceived to have been very far from improving it; and indeed, without being too prolix on the subject, I am disposed to think, from all that I saw and heard during my stay, short as it was, that in respect of vice, and the almost total demoralization of the lower classes, Malaga has

a good claim to be entitled the sink of Spain. I do not know, indeed, that robbery or assassination is more general than in other parts of Andalusia, but quite frequent enough to make a quiet inoffensive traveller like myself feel rather uncomfortable when leaving the hospitable roofs of my friends, Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Mark, and pursuing my way along the silent Alameda towards my hotel. It was dangerous, I was told, to stir out after it was dark, even a few yards from one's own door, unattended, upon the Alameda, from the numerous wretches who are singularly expert in pulling the cloak suddenly over the head of their victim, and in this manner plundering him; the Spanish knife, as effectual as the Italian stiletto in doing its business, occasionally lending its assistance, should the person thus entangled chance to be more than usually obstinate.

I was about leaving Malaga, when chance threw in my way a very singular personage. I had been paying my respects, a very necessary sort of ceremony in Spain, to the General Commandant, as I believe he was styled, previous to my departure, when, as I was descending the spacious and dirty stairs of his hotel, I passed a lank, shrivelled being in a tattered kind of uniform, and who Mr. Mark informed me was the last descendant of the great Montezeuma, a wretched old man, now dependent upon charity

and the bounty of others for a precarious subsistence.

The neighbourhood of Malaga is very interesting from the numerous Roman remains that are to be met with; and, were not the country and people in the almost barbarous state they now are, this part of Spain would be well worthy of the scientific traveller's research: as it is, this enlightened race, like the Moors, set themselves against any attempt with this view, being thoroughly persuaded that the object is the discovery of concealed treasure; and a person would be almost as likely to get leave to search for antiquities, as to obtain the Sultan of Morocco's permission to proceed through his territories, and explore the savage range of the high Atlas.

Malaga is too well known to need even the few observations that have been made, and I shall therefore no longer occupy the time of the reader, but proceed upon my journey.

Before I recommence this, I should be ungrateful were I to omit noticing the kind attentions and friendly assistance I received not only from Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Mark, the British consul, but also from Messrs. Reins and Delius, to whom I was indebted for letters of credit for Granada and Cordova, of no inconsiderable importance and assistance to my journey to Madrid.

At an early hour in the morning I was awakened by a knock at my chamber-door; and, on getting up to open it, I found the muleteer whom I had engaged to conduct me to Granada, and who came to tell me it was time to start. In a few minutes the deep silence that reigned was interrupted by the loud clanking of horses on the pavement; and opening the casement, the feeble glimmer of a half-expiring lamp just enabled me to discern them at the door of the fonda. It was yet quite dark when, having hastily packed up my few things, and leaving the inmates of the house as fast asleep as I had been a few minutes before, we mounted our steeds, and proceeded cautiously through the streets of Malaga, now silent and deserted. We had a long and difficult day's journey before us in climbing again the mountain chain, which was the cause that had induced us to set out so early. Having reached the suburbs, and passed the barrier, where we were detained a few minutes, we quickened our pace, giving a look out now and then to see that we were not followed by any of the good citizens of Malaga, who might be anxious to testify their regret at the short stay I had made with them.

On leaving the town, the road winds along near the sea-shore for some leagues; but it was yet an hour before the dawn, streaking on the

eastern horizon, unveiled the features of the country, and showed us on our right the motionless waters of the Mediterranean, half-veiled in mist, and indistinctly reflecting the cold gray tint of morn.

The road, now deviating from the shore for some distance, concealed it from our view; and, on our again approaching it, we found its broad surface glittering in the beams of the rising sun. What a difference half an hour had made in the face of nature!—before, chill, dark, and presenting the appearance of chaos to the imperfect vision; now become warmed and animated by that mysterious world of flame which had so suddenly recalled into life the torpid spirits of man and the rest of the animal creation. As we pursued our way along the shore, on winding round a rocky headland, the scene was enlivened by a large party of fishermen drawing in their nets; while in the distance several small vessels, their graceful latine sails swelled with the morning breeze, were scudding towards Malaga.

As we approached Velez, the country appeared like a rich garden, and delightfully luxuriant to the eye. At one time the road passed through extensive plantations of the lofty sugar-cane, which the peasants were employed in cutting; while, a little further on, delicious groves of orange, citron, and pomegranate, loaded with fruit, wafted their fragrancy upon the mild air,

and afforded ample proofs of this delightful climate. As we passed near a high woody bank covered with ilex and other evergreens, I was surprised with the apparition of some birds, the splendid hues of whose plumage, yellow, red, and green, quite glistened with the sun's ray as they darted along, two and three together. I could scarcely believe that I was journeying in Europe. This is the merops or bee-eater, an inhabitant of Asia and Africa, as also of the warmer part of southern Europe: it is not, I believe, found in any part of Spain except Andalusia.

We reached Velez Malaga, a tolerably-sized town situated at the foot of the mountain chain, before noon; and, having halted for an hour at the posada to refresh ourselves and beasts, we continued the journey. The road, on leaving Velez, is a continued ascent for some leagues; first winding up the higher part of its rich luxuriant valley, and then entering upon the steep and lengthened slopes of the mountains. We had not proceeded far, when we passed a numerous party of ordinarios, who were regaling themselves at the door of a lonely venta. These are carriers who travel from one town to another, and form a kind of caravan for the conveyance of goods as well as passengers, affording a safe though somewhat tedious means of travelling. We were now again toiling up

the steep and barren sides of the Sierra, thinly wooded, and broken with shattered masses of rock. A goatherd's hut was in a valley below us; and his flock, some of which were peeping down from a high crag above it, appeared the only inhabitants of these wild regions.

The heat of the day and the fatiguing nature of the ascent made me glad to have recourse to my companion's borracha, or leathern wine-bag: the thin Malaga wine with which it was filled tasted quite delicious. As we ascended higher, the same magnificent view which I had before so much admired unfolded itself, and again the Mediterranean lay stretched below us, reflecting the glow from the west; while the verge of the horizon was faintly marked by the white sails of a distant vessel. The sun was already down; and, by the time we had gained the summit of the mountains, the darkening twilight just enabled us to discern the gloomy and desolate spot we were in. The pass through which the road led was narrow, and flanked by two tremendous lofty cliffs, which reared their sullen heads, frowning upon the traveller's approach. The cry of an eagle from a precipice above us alone interrupted the silence that reigned. Darkness soon stole so fast upon us, that we were already benighted before we could get clear of this gloomy region; the dreary solitude of which, with the lateness of the hour,

made it a very likely haunt for banditti. We spurred on our horses, in order to reach the venta, where we intended remaining until morning, and which was fortunately at no great distance: it was, however, now so dark, that we were obliged to proceed slowly and with caution, the road before us being quite invisible. My guide, making at length a sudden halt, said we had at last arrived at our night's quarters; and sounds of voices reached our ears, although as yet the surrounding gloom was too great to enable me to make out any habitation.

My companion, who did not seem quite satisfied with what he heard, having listened for a short time, said he thought it would be best to reconnoitre; and having accordingly dismounted, he gave me the reins to hold, and groped his way towards the house. As he opened the door, the blazing light of a wood-fire flashed across the road, and discovered a large party of men sitting round it drinking, whose appearance was any thing but favourable. The stay my guide made within doors was but short; and on his return, having merely observed that he did not like the looks of the company within, and that it would not do for us to put up there, we moved away from the door as silently as we could. This was a sad disappointment. The night was stormy and dark as pitch; and as we sat on our horses the blast blew cold and

loud over the high dreary waste. We had been more than twelve hours on horseback, and had for some time enjoyed in anticipation the comforts of a good fire and a cigar; these, however, we were not likely to attain quite so soon as we had expected. We had still a last resource in a hut at a short distance; to which we directed our steps; and, having received a satisfactory answer to our inquiries whether we could be accommodated with a night's lodging, we dismounted, and entered the habitation, which was large enough to contain both ourselves and steeds.

The house was wretched and comfortless, the people appeared miserably poor, and there seemed every prospect of our faring but indifferently. We were now on the mountain tops; and as we sat by some half-expiring embers, the storm blew loud and cold through the shattered roof under which we had taken shelter. It was, nevertheless, better than being on the outside; and we had reason to be thankful in finding any place to rest ourselves and beasts. Things began, however, soon to improve: a blazing fire and a cup of arguadiente (brandy) made us quickly forget our fatigues and become regardless of the storm without. My companion was, at the same time, not unmindful of our security, and narrowly observed the strangers that occasionally looked in to warm themselves or

light their pipes. Our appearance indeed was but little calculated to excite suspicion, at least as to our wealth: two poorer-looking devils perhaps never crossed the Andalusian mountains; and we were not much better than we looked, as the whole of my riches consisted of two or three dollars, just enough to carry myself and guide as far as Granada. If our manner of travelling had been more splendid, our progress would doubtless have been slower, and we should have been more liable to sundry stoppages and impediments: as it was, our humble appearance and method of journeying were our best security, and I hoped to get as far as Cordova at least with a safe skin. A small portion of stale fish, which had been brought up from the coast, and fried in oil over the fire, tasted, as I thought, quite as delicious as any turbot at a hot dinner in May or June at the west end of the town; after which, having smoked our cigars, we lay down in our cloaks by the fireside, until we should be able to pursue our journey the following morning.

We were again on horseback before it was light, as we had another long day's journey before us. Travelling in any part of Spain is fatiguing enough, but particularly where there are only mule-roads, as is the case generally in the south. From the tedious pace you are necessarily obliged to proceed at, on account of your

luggage and the mountainous nature of the country, which alone keeps the traveller to a foot-pace, you are seldom less than twelve and very frequently thirteen and fourteen hours on horseback, which, even to those who, like myself, have had many a long day's march, will not appear a very short day's work. The population in Spain is so very thinly scattered throughout the country, that you may travel thirty miles and more without seeing a single habitation, or setting eyes upon any other being than a goatherd or a stray smuggler, except you have the luck to fall in with a party of brigands. On this account you are necessarily compelled to travel long distances in order to make sure of some place as a night-shelter, and which, when you have reached, is generally so filthy that a bivouac in the warm season in this delightful climate would be a luxury to being devoured by legions of animals who, for our sins, are permitted to devour this frail human body of ours even before the period of its natural dissolution.

The morning broke when we had been about half an hour on horseback, and enabled me to discern the features of the country. We were journeying across a bleak tract of high table-land, and on our right a high naked mountain ridge, partially covered with snow, added to the dreariness of the view, and told us we were approaching the lofty Alps of Granada. We

were no longer in the warm sheltered plains of Malaga; a few hours had brought us into a very different climate; and the piercing air of these elevated regions made me glad to put on my Moorish jelibea, clad in which, with the hood up, I might well have been taken either for a Barbary mule-driver or a Capuchin monk. The track we were following was hard and good from the frost, which had been sharp during the night; and we pushed on at a brisk rate, to keep ourselves and beasts warm. After having proceeded about a league, the road began to descend, winding along a mountain valley bordered by a ridge of high wooded rocks. The sun was just rising, and the wild cry of a goat-herd from above us seemed to welcome his reappearance. The small town of Alhama, which we now reached, and which is known for its hot-springs, is not unlike Ronda in situation, being partly built on the brow of a perpendicular wall of rock, below which, at the depth of about three hundred feet, a rapid stream from the mountains dashes along. Travellers on their road from Malaga to Granada in the summer season generally contrive to reach Alhama the first day, in order to avoid the place where we had taken up our quarters. The length of the journey, however, and the shortness of the days, render this very difficult to accomplish in the winter-time.

The nature of the country about Alhama, being mountainous and inaccessible, rendered it the scene of frequent contention in the wars, when the Moors were making their last gallant struggle in Europe against the Christian hosts. Who can peruse the annals of those days, recently presented to us by the pen of the accomplished author of the Sketch-Book, without feelings of emotion, not unmixed with horror? and who can fail to recognise in his worthy historian, the Fray Antonio Agapida, the cruel and bigoted monk of the present day? "It was," observes this amiable father, in describing the excursions and ravages made by the Count Tendilla from the fortress of Alhama, "a pleasing and refreshing sight to witness the rich land of the infidel made desolate, and to see his children made captive!!" God forbid, that in these periods a soul should be found capable, like a fiend, of enjoying such scenes of misery and bloodshed!

The country between Alhama and Granada is bleak, naked, and barren, a succession of high dreary table-lands, with a wretched-looking mountain-village now and then presenting itself, and, as usual, a succession of murderers' crosses to complete the desolation of the scene. Under how different an aspect does nature appear when the lofty snows of the Sierra Nevada break at once upon the traveller's view in chill and tranquil majesty!—and how well does he recognise

in these giant masses the magic touch of that Almighty hand which has so suddenly and so sublimely heightened the features of the landscape, as he gazes upon its icy ridges shooting upwards into a region intermediate between earth and heaven, and far above the whirlwind which sweeps the valleys beneath! The wings of imagination place him upon its pinnacles of frost, and he beholds both the waters of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic waves, while the broad hoary shoulders of its savage rival, old Father Atlas, close the view. He treads the same snows which, three centuries since, witnessed the downfal of the proud city at their feet,—saw the gleam of the Christian sword, and the silver cross planted upon the towers of the Alhambra; while the mournful remnant of a brave and high-minded people caught from the points of the surrounding Alpujarras a last glimpse of their once happy homes, the smiling plain of Granada, and then, heart-broken, retreated with lingering steps to seek a refuge within its bosom. How many generations of Christians and Mussulmen have since mouldered away, and yet the frozen mantle of these Alps remains unmelted!

We had been plodding over many a weary league of ground throughout the day, during which we had only halted for a few minutes at a venta, when we came at nearly sunset to

the brow of the mountains, and a most magnificent view burst upon us—the romantic city of Granada, glittering in the distance, with its towers and palaces clustering along the steep sides of the Sierra; while at its feet lay stretched the delicious vega, spotted with innumerable villas, and shaded with groves of olive and citron, through which the silvery windings of the Xenil could be traced. Well might the Moor sigh when he gazed on this paradise for the last time! How well was the scene now before me portrayed in the beautiful lines of the noble author of "The Moor:"

"The sun is low, the eve is bright and still;
The breeze comes soft and sad o'er Santa's hill;
King of the waste, Elvira's giant height,
Swells yet more bold—one purple throne of light;
O'er the pale mantle of Nevada's snows
The waning orb its level glory throws:
Where lone Alhambra rears her mountain brow,
And Darro rolls her rushing flood below."

LORD PORCHESTER'S MOOR.

We were fast approaching Granada when the declining glow in the heavens announced the departure of day, the sun dipped beneath the western mountains, and the convent bells deeply tolling announced the hour of vespers. It was indeed a most delicious evening, calm and mild: the mountain blast of the preceding night no longer whistled around us, and a whispering

breeze alone kept softly creeping at intervals over the vega, bearing with it the perfume of the citron and orange: a deep saffron glow still tinged the ridges of the west; in a few minutes it faded to a paler hue, and now the last tints of waning light died softly away, and the lingering gleam was lost in the dusk of transient twilight. Yet, amid the deepening gloom the eye, wandering up the dark masses of the Sierra Nevada, rested upon the highest points, still illumined; and while the world below was hid, its icy ridges appeared like strata of milk-white clouds reflecting the last rays of sunset. By the time we reached Granada it was night; the magnificent approach to the city was concealed from the view; and as we passed the shady groves of the Alameda, which presented now but one dark mass, the only sounds that struck the ear were the murmuring waters of the Xenil, and the trembling foliage lightly shivering in the breeze.

CHAPTER VIII.

Granada described.—Situation of the City.—The Alhambra.—Xeneralife.—Palace of Charles V.—Dispersion of the Nuns during the Constitution.—Posada del Sol.—Santa Fé. Siege of Granada.—Visit to the Soto di Roma.—The Albayzin.—The Alpujarras.—Moriscoes.—Journey resumed. Alcala.—A Traveller's Breakfast.—Rio del Castro.—Spanish Olla.—Arrival at Cordova.

WHO has not heard of Granada, and does not long to climb its mountain barriers and visit this romantic city, once the last refuge of an enlightened and high-minded people, who, having reached that height of civilization and refinement so remarkable when contrasted with the barbarism of the rest of Europe, were fated to seek a refuge on Afric's shores, and mix their proud blood with that of the wild sons of Barbary?

Granada is partly situated at the foot and on the slopes of the mountains, backed by the high range of the Sierra Nevada, whose lofty snow ridges look down with cold and tranquil aspect on the fair city below, with the torrent of the Darro and the delightful groves on the bank of the Xenil. With the exception of the more modern parts of the city, some of the

streets of which are wide and spacious, Granada may be termed ill built, both on account of the steepness and inequality of the ground, and the usual bad construction of all Moorish towns.

To pass through Granada without noticing the Alhambra would appear extraordinary; and yet, after the many amply detailed accounts of former travellers, any thing more than a mere notice would seem superfluous. The Alhambra, the ancient residence of the Moorish sovereigns of Granada during the continuance of the Arab empire in Spain, once the fond object of the Moslems' boast, and even now, in its decay, the admiration of the Christians, is situated upon a steep ridge to the eastward of the city, whose clustering buildings she proudly surveys at her feet, once peopled by her own children, but now inhabited by a different race. Below its crumbling walls the impetuous Darro rushes swiftly down to unite with the more peaceful stream of the Xenil, which waters the luxuriant vega of Granada. The palace itself is in tolerable preservation, considering the hands into which it has fallen. Here and there the cracks in the walls of this frail and beautiful building show the effect of the earthquakes which have shaken it. On the whole, however, I was, I confess, surprised to find it in so good a state, when the adjoining

buildings exhibit such marks of neglect and ruin. The present governor of the fortress of the Alhambra, who has been but recently appointed, shows more taste than his predecessors have done in his care for the preservation of a building which ought to be the boast of Spain; and on this account, in particular, the traveller must feel indebted to him. The exterior of the Alhambra, as is the case generally in Mahometan architecture, influenced as it is by the habits of the people, presents nothing remarkably striking. It is on setting foot within it that the stranger's admiration is excited in the highest degree; and he sees with astonishment, after the lapse of so many centuries, the magic touch of the Mussulman still as fresh as when the colours first glowed from his hand; while the exquisite beauty of the fretwork, the richness of the Arabesque decorations, and the mysterious characters which catch the eye, convey an idea of a fairy palace. Modern art has doubtless attained a very high degree of excellence; but it may indeed be questioned, whether its utmost efforts could produce, in these days, a work so replete with beauty of effect, variety, and richness. Looking down upon the Alhambra is the Xeneralife, the summer palace of the Moorish queens, which is well worthy of being visited; while, from the terrace, a most magnificent view is enjoyed of Granada, the rich

surrounding vega, and the encircling range of mountains. In the gardens are to be seen the celebrated cypresses which formed the walk of the Moorish sultana. They are of prodigious size, being the growth of several centuries.

Near the Alhambra is the vast edifice intended by Charles V. for a palace; and which, if it had been completed, would doubtless have been one of the most splendid edifices of the kind in Europe. In the situation, however, in which it is placed, and connected as it is so immediately with the venerable towers of the Alhambra, it sinks into insignificance when compared with them, and appears so modern and even contemptible that it must be regretted by every one that a building on so magnificent a scale, and possessing such beauties of architecture, should have been so glaringly misplaced, when, in almost any other situation, it would have been a real ornament to the city.

I had been informed, on leaving Malaga, that I should find excellent accommodation at the principal hotel; and I could not help consoling myself, after the hard fare I had experienced, with the prospect of those little comforts which a traveller, when on his road, is so apt to bring to his imagination. I was, however, reckoning literally without my host; for when knocked up both riders and beasts, after a very long day's march we at last stood before the much-

wished-for habitation, we were doomed to be disappointed. The appearance of the building was any thing but cheering; all was dark and silent; the doors were fastened, the ponderous window-shutters closed, and in short we began to fancy, not without reason, that the house had no inhabitants.

In this supposition we were not very far from the mark, for, after repeated thunders at the door for admittance, an upper window was opened, and a gruff voice informed us, for our comfort, that the hotel had been shut up the day before by an order of government, and that we could on no account be allowed to enter. Our purpose would not indeed have been at all advanced had we succeeded in obtaining an admittance, and we should have been pretty nearly as bad off within as without. It seemed that the unfortunate landlord had allowed his house to become the rendezvous of a disaffected party, who, having been plotting against the government as it was affirmed, had been discovered through the agency of their numerous spies. The landlord, in consequence, had been put into prison, his house closed, and the person who had addressed us was an officer of the police. Such being the state of affairs, we had nothing to do but to seek another night's lodging; and after wandering about for some time in the dark, my guide found out a posada, where ourselves

and beasts were at length housed. In point of antiquity my new habitation would have vied almost with the Alhambra itself. In appearance it resembled a good deal the former ancient hostels of our own country; some few of which may still be seen in London, in parts of the city where the march of modern improvement, as it is called, has not yet intruded itself upon these respectable relics of the good olden time.

Our posada was dignified by the title of "Posada del Sol," alias "the Sun Inn;" probably from its situation, as I do not recollect ever to have got a glimpse of that luminary from my quarters all the time I remained at Granada. The accommodations afforded me were certainly none of the most splendid, being comprised in one small chamber, containing a truck bed with a table and wooden stool; in the adjoining room were a party of muleteers from Cordova, a jolly noisy set of fellows, whose vicinity to me I did not much relish. The posada, in short, I soon found out was the common carriers' inn, and well frequented by these gentry, who came flocking in at all hours with their long files of mules from Malaga, Ronda, Cordova, and the other towns of Andalusia.

It may be supposed that our cookery was not the most refined; and that in order to suit the palate of a Spanish muleteer, whose nose requires tickling more than his appetite, it would be

naturally rather gross: in truth, it would indeed have been difficult to have missed the kitchen, from the savoury steams of garlic and oil which spread their delicate exhalations through the adjoining stable where the mules were lodged. I was fortunately, however, not very nice, and eat with *bon-cœur* and sharp appetite whatever the good man below, who was both ostler and cook, thought fit to send up for my solitary meal, in the shape of a fricassee, an omelet, or any other nicety.

When at Malaga; I had the pleasure of meeting General O'Lawlor, an Irishman, I believe, by birth, but who had been some years in the Spanish service. This officer, whose family was resident at Granada, on my expressing a wish to visit the Duke of Wellington's estate, in the neighbourhood of this city, was kind enough to give me a letter of introduction to the gentleman who has the superintendence of the property.

On my arrival, being anxious to lose no time, I called upon him; and, having explained the object of my visit, and that I had served for some years in his grace's own regiment, the Blues, I was immediately received with every possible attention, and the following day was appointed for our visit to the Soto de Roma, the name of the duke's estate. In order to avoid the heat of the sun, we set out at an early hour of the morning from Granada; and as our

calesh rolled over the broken pavement, scarcely a soul was stirring, and the only sound, besides that of our own wheels, proceeded from a neighbouring convent, whose bell was tolling to matin prayers. Our road lay through the rich vega of Granada, passing close to Santa Fé. This town, which consists of two principal streets, and is built in form of a cross, owes its rise to the conflagration of the Christian camp during the siege of Granada, Ferdinand having determined, in consequence of this accident, to found a town upon the very spot, in order to convince the Moors that resistance would be unavailing. This resolution was forthwith executed, and Santa Fé rose to the astonishment of the Musselman, who, as he daily viewed the progress of the work from the heights of the Alhambra, could not from this determined step of the Christian leader but tremble for the safety of the city, the last hope of the Moslem race.

The siege was commenced by Ferdinand, on the 24th of April, 1491; and on the 25th of November the city surrendered, on condition that the keys should be given up within sixty days, hostages being at the same time delivered up for its due performance. The above period was, however, shortened by Boabdil, the Moorish king, from an apprehension of commotions in the city; and on the 6th of January, 1492, the conquerors set out from Santa Fé to make their

triumphal entry into Granada, and were received by Boabdil el Chico.

The chapel of St. Sebastian, built upon the spot, near the Xenil, records the event where the keys of the proud fortress of the Alhambra were delivered into Christian hands by the disheartened Moor, who afterwards retired with his followers to the bosom of the Alpujarras mountains. Santa Fé is also memorable on another account; for from this place the discovery of the new world may be said to be dated, Columbus having, after years of anxious toil and solicitation, at last obtained at Santa Fé, during the siege of Granada, the king and queen's final sanction to the glorious expedition he had so long been labouring to carry into effect.

The Soto de Roma, the estate which was granted at the conclusion of the peninsular war to the Duke of Wellington, as a small return for the eminent services rendered to the country, is a royal demesne, situated at the extremity of the vega of Granada, and, in the time of the Moors, was a favourite retreat of the sovereigns of Granada. We reached it before noon, and spent some time in walking about the extensive and finely wooded grounds, which are watered by several beautiful streams, adding considerably to their beauty. The house is a plain building, with nothing remarkable about

it, except, perhaps, the numerous cracks that are visible in the walls, the effect of shocks of earthquakes, which are at times severely felt throughout the vega. The adjoining buildings appeared also to have suffered materially. I was much pleased to observe the state of the different farms belonging to the estate. One does not expect to find agriculture in a very advanced state in Spain; and, although this is any thing but the case in general, yet I must confess that I never witnessed neater farming in any part of my own country than I did at the Soto de Roma, which is saying a good deal. After partaking of a plentiful and excellent dinner, prepared for me by the attention of the Señor who had accompanied me from Granada, at the posada in the village, we returned in the cool of the evening to the city.

Granada is still rich in Moorish remains; among them may be numbered the Bivarrambla and the Alkasseria, formerly a bazaar, but now made use of as a market, as is also the former. The Casa di Carbon, once a palace, is still an interesting specimen of Moorish architecture, although in a most neglected and ruinous state: it is now converted into a kind of corrail, and affords a shelter to some miserable families who inhabit it. The cathedral, although not to be put in comparison with that of Seville, is well worthy the traveller's inspection. In an adjoining chapel are deposited the remains of Ferdinand

and Isabella, the conquerors of Granada, as also of Philip the First and his consort. The old parts of the city, as at Seville, remain pretty much the same as during the time of the Moors; and the curious traveller who will be content to give up the gaieties of the Alameda, and the frequented parts of the town, and poke his way through the dark and narrow winding streets of the remote quarters of the city, although he may not stumble upon any very splendid specimens of architecture, will meet with many things to interest him, and find much to remind him, at almost every step, of those ages when a Mahometan population thronged the streets of Granada. The quarter of the Albayzin, in particular, which comprises the height opposite to the Alhambra, remains more in its ancient state than any other part of Granada, and is very interesting both on this account and from its being actually inhabited by a race the descendants of the old Musselman population, and who at this present day, in point of fact, have more of the Moor than the Spaniard in them. When the stranger finds himself in this singular quarter, he is no less struck with the windings of the narrow streets and passages than the singular appearance of the houses, which seem, as they are, almost literally destitute of windows, with merely a kind of Moorish loop-hole here and there to admit the light; the streets have, in conse-

quence, a most deserted and gloomy appearance, and, as is the case in Morocco, present to the view little more than a line of dead wall, interrupted only by the doors, which are very low, and the general irregularity of the architecture.

The inhabitants of the quarter of the Albayzin are very different in their habits from the inhabitants of the rest of the city, and they appear to be considered by them almost as a different race. This arises from their still preserving the manners and customs of their Moorish ancestors. It is even said that many of them adhere in secret to the religion of their forefathers, keeping the different Moorish fasts, and that they have been surprised by others when engaged in making their daily prostrations: I had, of course, no opportunity of verifying this, although I was assured of the truth of it by respectable persons.

It is among the Alpujarras, however, that the stranger should bend his steps, in order to get a sight of the remnant of the unfortunate Moorish race. It was in these wild regions that the Mahometans first sought refuge after the fall of Granada and the extinction of their empire; and here it is, at the present day, that their descendants may still be met with, like the inhabitants of the Albayzin, Christians by name, but Mahometans at heart, having sur-

vived the persecution of subsequent ages, and still clinging to the neighbourhood of their once proud and magnificent city. The Alpujarras comprise a mountain district of about seventeen leagues in length and eleven in breadth, and are almost entirely peopled by a race whose stature, features, and dress exhibit evident marks of Moorish blood in their veins; while their habits, customs, and even language, which is a mixture of the Arabic and Spanish, evince not less strongly their origin.

It was during the reign of the bigoted Philip II. that the Moors, who for near a century had been living in submission under the yoke of Spain, were first provoked by the persecutions to which they were exposed to shake off their allegiance. This people, who have been termed Morescoes, were the descendants of the old Moors of Spain, whose empire was finally overthrown by the victorious Ferdinand. From this period this unfortunate race seemed doomed to a life of constant persecution and cruelty*. Too great a bigot in the cause of religion to observe the solemn promises he had given them of the free enjoy-

* It was at this time that the Jews were banished from Spain, after having been subjected to such persecutions and torture, that history relates that the sufferings they experienced on this occasion were not inferior to what followed the destruction of the holy city.

ment of their ancient faith, Ferdinand, finding that milder measures were insufficient to tempt them to abjure their religion, scrupled not to employ force to effect his purpose; and, on some unfounded and shallow grounds, that they had been engaged in plans of revolt, he compelled 50,000 of them, under pain of death, to profess Christianity. It may well be supposed that the severity of this measure would not have the effect of quieting their minds; and the Moorish population of the Alpujarras were accordingly preparing for resistance, when Ferdinand, having attacked them with a considerable force, took one of their towns, and made an indiscriminate slaughter of the inhabitants: many were banished to Africa; and the greater part compelled to become converts to Christianity. Great numbers were afterwards condemned and burnt as heretics, for still clinging with fondness to the Mahometan forms and superstitions.

The character of Philip did not promise the adoption of any more lenient measures towards the unfortunate Morescoes; and when the priests complained that they were still Mahometans in their hearts, this bigoted prince lent a ready ear to the representations made to him of their infidelity. The inquisition, at the same time, which then was flourishing in full power, was not backward in urging the king to

the adoption of arbitrary measures against the race, and which were not long in being put in execution. Having first deprived them of their arms, an edict was published commanding them, under pain of death, to adopt the language, dress, and customs of Castile; and it was further prohibited that the Moorish names should any longer be in use among them. The women were at the same time strictly enforced to appear without the usual concealment of the face; and marriages were forbidden without a dispensation from the ordinary. The use of the bath was lastly forbidden; and no person was allowed to have arms, or to move from one town to another without permission. Such were the arbitrary and cruel measures by which Philip was resolved to force religion down their throats, and for ever to choke any future risings of heresy.

The unfortunate Morescoes remonstrated submissively against this tyrannical as well as absurd edict, but in vain; and being now convinced that they had nothing to hope from so despotic a prince, they sent to solicit aid from Barbary, as well as from Constantinople; and, a reinforcement of troops having arrived, the whole of the region of the Alpujarras was quickly in revolt. An assembly was held, and a king elected, who forthwith entered upon the exercise of his new

authority, appointed his ministers and officers, and took immediate steps to resist the Spanish monarch.

The first attempt made by the newly-elected chief, Aben Humeya, was upon the city of Granada itself, and, having held a previous correspondence with the inhabitants of the Albayzin, he despatched a body of troops amounting to 7000 men; and, if it had not been for an accidental circumstance, a fall of snow, which prevented their reaching Granada, this bold enterprise would probably have succeeded. The Marquis of Mondejar was upon this sent out with a body of troops to put a stop to their proceedings; and the Morescoes, having in vain disputed the entrance of his army to the Alpujarras, were ultimately obliged to fly; and in a few months the whole of that region was subdued, the inhabitants laid down their arms, and sued for peace.

The first act of Philip on this occasion evinced a total want of generosity and humanity; for a mandate was issued by him, commanding that all the prisoners which had been taken should be sold for slaves, without regard to sex or condition. His victorious troops, at the same time, were not slow in following the example of his cruelty; and, having set aside all authority, spread themselves throughout the country, mas-

sacring the unfortunate people, and committing the greatest atrocities. The Morescoes now repented of their submission; and, seeing that there was no longer any chance of safety, they resumed their arms, ranged themselves again under the banners of their late king, and a second revolt quickly blazed out.

Don John of Austria was now intrusted by Philip with the supreme command, and to him the task of quelling the new insurrection was committed. In the end, the Morescoes, who were undisciplined and badly armed, were completely subdued, although not without having offered a brave and, on some occasions, an effectual resistance against the Spaniards.

The war was soon brought to a conclusion, and Philip's persecutions recommenced in a more barbarous way than ever, with the view probably of striking the greater terror. All prisoners, of both sexes, were either executed or sold as slaves; while the inhabitants of entire villages and districts, men, women, and children, were completely extirpated.

Such was the manner in which the war was closed. The dreadful severities that were practised effectually crushed the hopes and power of the unfortunate Morescoes, whose descendants at the present day people the districts of

the Alpujarras, now cultivated and flourishing by the industry of these secluded and hardy mountaineers.

The difference of climate between Malaga and Granada is very considerable, and, as at Ronda, I was glad to warm my naked and comfortless chamber with some hot embers placed in a chafing-dish: the nights were sharp and frosty, and as there were no sashes to the windows, I felt the cold the more sensibly. The elevation of Granada is considerable, and on this account the summer heats are by no means so great as in other parts of Andalusia. The temperature of the air has doubtless an influence upon the inhabitants, for the deep tinge of the countenance, so observable among the ladies of Cadiz and Seville, no longer predominates here, and I remarked many complexions as fair as in our own country.

I remained in Granada just long enough to make myself acquainted with the principal objects best worthy of the traveller's notice, and having obtained my passport from the governor-general, to whom I had been furnished with a letter of introduction, and who had received me civilly enough, I prepared with regret to leave this romantic city, so replete with interest, and pursue my journey towards France. With regard to a guide, as I had found my former one trust-worthy, I thought I could not do better

than leave this matter in his hands: he accordingly brought a comrade of his, who engaged, in consideration of a certain sum in hard dollars, neither to cut my throat nor suffer any one else to do it, but to provide me with a couple of good horses, promising at the same time to transport me with my luggage safely to Cordova in three days. I was up as early as the muleteers, who were about to disperse in different directions, and having satisfied the claims mine host had upon me, and which were by no means extravagant, I took leave of my small chamber in the Posada del Sol, and daybreak saw me and my new companion on horseback, and pacing along the streets of Granada, unenlivened at this early hour by scarcely any signs of population. The slippery state of the miserable pavement, and the natural infirmities of the animal on which I was seated, bowed both horse and rider more than once so nearly to the earth, that I felt more at ease in trusting to my own legs; and having, accordingly, dismounted, trudged after my companion, who was some distance a-head, until we had got clear of the suburbs.

The country, the first day's journey, and indeed during the whole of the way to Cordova, is a continued chain of mountains, naked and dreary, scarcely a tree appearing the greater part of the distance to soften the rugged face of the land-

scape, except an occasional plantation of olives in the lower valleys. Here and there the dark foliage of the cypress or yew is seen overhanging the brow of the rock above, and imparting a wild and solitary gloom to the naked surface. The numerous remains, however, of Moorish castles which crown the different steep and impregnable heights, rising singularly abrupt and precipitous, present alone a striking and interesting feature; while the traveller has merely to look back again to admire the magnificent snow range of the Sierra Nevada, which on the third day is still visible, appearing from the mountains above Cordova like strata of fleecy clouds. The height of this chain is, according to the measurement of Clementi, 1105 feet above the level of the sea, the Cumbre de Mulhacen being the most elevated point of the Sierra.

When the traveller has once passed the Sierra Nevada he feels sensibly the alteration of temperature: when toiling his way up from the shores of the Mediterranean, the air is hot and sultry, and he feels oppressed with heat even in the winter season: when, however, this lofty barrier of ice is placed between him and the ocean, the climate undergoes a sudden and remarkable change; the warm African breeze is cooled by the icy surface over which it passes, and he shivers with cold as he wraps his cloak about him.

We had the road quite to ourselves; no sign of a human being presenting itself for miles: occasionally the jingling of distant bells somewhat enlivened the scene and announced the approach of a party of arrieros or muleteers, well mounted and armed, and followed by thirty or forty sleek well-fed mules in lengthened file, loaded with merchandize and goods. These men, by whose means the internal commerce of the country is almost entirely carried on, seemed a merry set of careless easy fellows, and as happy as a cigar and having nothing to do but to swing their legs sideways over the back of their animals can make them: as we passed them, their wild and artless chant would be for an instant interrupted by the usual salutation of the country, "Vaya usted con Dios," "God be with you," and then resumed until lost to the ear in the distance. Towards noon we encountered several peasants, who informed us that some robbers were lying in wait on a part of the road about a mile in advance, and that in the morning they had plundered some of the country-people who were passing along. My former good fortune seemed not to have deserted me in this instance, for it carried us by the spot which had been pointed out without our having experienced any interruption.

The country approaching Alcala becomes less mountainous; wood begins to appear, and the dark-green hue of the olive plantations is re-

freshing to the eye after the naked surface of the rocks. Before we reached the town we passed along a considerable tract of cultivated valley, where the sweet scent of the beans in blossom, although January had scarcely expired, while they recalled the scenes of a country home, seemed more grateful than the perfume of the citron or orange.

We reached Alcala in good time, and I occupied myself for an hour before it grew dark in inspecting the town, which is irregularly built on the sides of a steep and precipitous hill, crowned by a Moorish castle, in a very commanding situation, from which a most extensive view is obtained. The posada where we had taken up our quarters was large and comfortless, and the chamber allotted to me, as usual, naked and devoid of furniture. The weather was sufficiently cold towards night to make me regret the cheerful blaze of an English fire, the place of which was miserably supplied by a brazier of hot ashes: over this, having despatched the scanty supper that had been served up, I sat brooding until bed-time, and with a cigar and a bottle of light country red wine, by no means bad, made myself tolerably comfortable.

Our next day's journey to Rio del Castro being a long one, we were on horseback the following morning before the dawn, and we

had just reached the valley below the town when the first light of day gave us a view of the castle of Alcala, forming a most picturesque object.

The traveller in Spain must not expect to get much in the shape of breakfast before he starts upon his journey, except it be now and then a cup of chocolate, which, generally speaking, is remarkably good, and infinitely superior to what is to be obtained in England. As we were generally up and on the road before even the muleteers had begun to shake themselves, or a soul was stirring in the house, the plan I pursued was to store the pockets of my Spanish jacket the preceding evening with a breakfast sufficiently portable, consisting of a couple of hard eggs, two slices of sausage, and a piece of bread, which, after we had been on horseback about an hour, I quickly disposed of with the appetite and relish which hunger and hard living seldom fail to create. The pommel of my saddle served for a table, and as the repast was made without stopping, a good deal of time was in this manner saved. With regard to the sausage, I cannot help recommending it in the warmest manner to future travellers as both a hardy and trusty companion, whose substantial services will alone render you independent of the meager cheer which the wretched posadas of Spain in general afford. When at Gibraltar, and equipping myself for my Barbary

tour, I had the good luck to meet with a very serviceable remnant of a Bologna sausage, an eatable called, I believe, in our vulgar tongue, a polony, and which, in spite of some well founded surmises hazarded from time to time as to its real composition, has still with us the merit of feeding a large proportion of the London cockneys. The above remnant measured originally about a yard, but from being in my hands it had gradually wasted down to half that length, and which scanty measure now alone remained to take me through Spain.

The features of the country during the day's journey were too little interesting to entitle them to any minute description. They were dreary and still mountainous, though it was evident that as we approached the Sierra Morena, the traces of the Granada range became fainter and fainter, and that little more now remained than the far distant snow-peaks of the Sierra Nevada, which were still visible. The dark-green hue of tracts of olive plantations more frequently caught the eye, and the deep tinge of the waters as we passed the different streams denoted the vicinity of the olive-mills. The Spanish olive is rich and oily in its nature, and in size it much exceeds the French. The quantity of oil it yields is considerable, but it is far inferior to what is produced in Italy, from the careless manner in

which the process is conducted, the fruit being not only generally bruised in the gathering, but is suffered to ferment by lying in heaps, which occasions the strong and rancid flavour which, however agreeable as it really is to the strong palate of the Spaniard, is not so to strangers. Of the Spanish olives those of Cordova and Seville are esteemed the finest.

We reached Rio del Castro at dark, having been twelve hours on horseback, and having accomplished nearly forty miles. The situation of the town, which is rather considerable, is not unlike that of Alcala, being partly on a rocky height and surmounted by a Moorish castle and works. The posada at which we had taken up our quarters for the night was very indifferent and filled with a large party of muleteers; there was however luckily a small back chamber reserved for travellers like myself, which, being unoccupied, I took speedy possession of, and having stowed in it my different articles of baggage, I prepared my night quarters. The first thing that presses upon the attention of the traveller in Spain, on reaching his nightly posada or venta, is to demand of mine host what there is to eat. The same remark holds good doubtless with regard to other countries; but in Spain I am sure it is necessary to those blessed with a good appetite, and sharpened by twelve hours' fast,

and the keen invigorating air of the mountains. Such was now my case, and I accordingly proceeded forthwith to inquire into the state of the larder. An olla I was told would take much too long to be convenient to the present state of my stomach, and having accordingly ordered the usual fricassee of rabbit to be followed by an omelet, I awaited in hungry expectation the appearance of supper.

En attendant, let me bring before the notice of the reader, who, perhaps, may not have had the good fortune to have tasted of the olla, the true and genuine composition of a dish so universal throughout Spain, the merits of which are so unquestionable that I doubt not the few details here given will be received with the interest the subject demands, particularly as they have been communicated to me from authority on which I am inclined to place the most implicit reliance. First, then, as to the name by which this celebrated dish is distinguished: this, as my learned informant states, is derived from the name of the vessel or pot, *olla*, in which it is cooked; by the more refined clases, however, it is termed cocido. Let us now proceed to discuss the ingredients, which may be divided into three classes: 1st, those of a plain olla; 2dly, those of an olla rather better than the one which, according to Cervantes, served as

the occasional repast of the hero of La Mancha, and which consisted of "*algo mas vaca que carnero*," somewhat more beef than mutton; and 3dly, those of a fancy olla; just as we have household bread, wheaten bread, and fancy bread.

The ingredients composing an olla of the first class are beef, mutton, bacon, cabbage, garbanzos*, a large pea, called by the French pois pointus, pois chiches (in Spanish they are called chicharos), and a few small onions, which will complete it. Of the second class, in addition to the above, are a fat fowl, ham, black-puddings and sausages (chorizos†), a variety of the sausage species dried to keep. Of the third class, in addition to all the foregoing, are raisins, pinones, which are kernels of the nuts contained in the cones of certain pines, or almonds blanched; when no pinones are to be had, cloves, a few of which are stuck into an onion. These multifarious and, as they may be considered by some, heterogeneous ingredients will probably somewhat puzzle those who may wish to concoct them, on which account I shall now select those which will produce an excellent

* The best garbanzos are those of Sahuco in Castile; these are made use of in the king's kitchen: if they are not of the best sort, they should be steeped in water over night.

† The chorizos d'Estremadura are the best.

olla, with water for a menstruum, and salt to open the degustatory organs, describing shortly the chemical process to be followed.

Of fresh and tender beef, 3lbs.; of leg, loin, or neck of mutton, 4lbs.; a fine fat fowl; of ham, 1lb.; of bacon, 1lb.; a few sausages or chorizos; of water to make good broth, quantum suf. These are to be quickly boiled, and the scum carefully removed as long as any arises. The fowl, the bacon, the ham, and the chorizos should then be taken out of the pot, or they would be overdone. Add now the heart of a fine cabbage, cut into eight parts, and a fine large Spanish onion* whole, and half a pint of garbanzos. These additions will have cooled the liquor in the pot below 212° of Fahrenheit, and ebullition being restored, it must be kept up for the space of fifteen minutes: the former appendages are then to be returned to the pot, and the compound is to be allowed to simmer only until the broth be perfected. The whole process requires at least four hours. The broth, the proper term for which is "el caldo," though technically called "el puchero," as applied to the broth for invalids, must then be poured out through a sieve, and either served up as broth or made

* Instead of this, a tomata when in season is often substituted at the best tables.

into soup, with thin slices of bread and vermicelli. The olla itself is to be dished up thus: the cabbage and onion being spread in the dish, the beef, mutton, fowl, ham, bacon, and chorizos are to be laid in negligent disorder upon the vegetables with such garbanzos as may be unmixed with the other vegetables. So much for a Spanish olla.

I had hardly finished my supper when the guide who had accompanied me entering my chamber informed me that the corregidor of the town wished to see me, upon which I proceeded forthwith to his house, curious to know why I had been thus sent for. On reaching his office I was ushered into the presence of his worship, who received me with not a little magisterial dignity, and, having asked me several questions, returned me my passport, which had been previously sent for his signature. It seemed that there was some incorrectness about it, which at the time I thought little about, and having satisfied himself that I was an English officer proceeding to Cordova, he told me that I was at liberty to depart.

I was up before it was light, intending to reach Cordova in good time; and whilst my companion was feeding our beasts, I repaired to the kitchen, where I found a large party of carriers assembled before a blazing fire, prepa-

ratory to their pursuing their journeys. They were in the act of preparing their morning's meal, which consisted of bread fried in a plentiful supply of oil, with the addition of some chalots; the mess being subsequently mixed with boiling water and seryed up in a huge bowl, around which the party crowded with eager looks of delight and hunger. It was very quickly emptied, not however without my having received an invitation to share its contents, of which I did not aavil myself, as my breakfast was nearly ready.

The distance of Cordova from Rio del Castro is about six short leagues. The road, which is good during the first part of the journey, follows the windings of a small river for some distance, and after crossing it several times, the traveller proceeds over some low mountain ranges, and gradually ascends until he reaches an extensive tract of high table-land, from which a very fine view is obtained of the city of Cordova, in a rich valley below, and bordered by the dark-wooded slopes of the gloomy Sierra Morena. Looking back, the stranger, while he passes his eye over many a weary mile of naked mountain, alone varied here and there by some ancient Moorish hold, perched on a lofty rock, just catches for the last time the white airy ridges of the Sierra Nevada, their faint outlines scarcely distinguishable from the pure surrounding ether.

Having descended to the valley, we reached the banks of the Guadalquivir, and having ferried over the river, we soon arrived at the suburbs, and passing the gates, where we were only detained for a few minutes, I found myself to my satisfaction at the end of my present journey, and within the walls of the ancient city of Cordova.

CHAPTER IX.

Cordova.—The great Mosque.—Palace of Zehra.—Condition of Spain under the Moors.—Irregularity of Passport.—Inhabitants of Cordova.—Hermitage.—Departure from Cordova.—Andujar.—Portuguese Refugees.—Baylen.—Diligence described.—Narrow Escape.—Escort.—Amicable Arrangement.—Captain Rolando.—Mode of proceeding.—La Carolina.—Sierra Morena.—Scene of Don Quixote's Exploits.—Magnificent Road.—Passage of the Sierra Morena, by the French Army, in 1810.—Venta de Cardenas.—Valdepeñas.—Wine.—La Mancha.—Puerto Lapiche.—Ocaña.—Azerjuna.—Arrival at Madrid.

CORDOVA, the capital of the kingdom of that name, is a considerable city situated in a fertile plain on the banks of the Guadalquivir, which partly encircles it. In point of architecture, Cordova is inferior to Seville or Granada; the streets being still narrower and more irregular than in the latter towns, with the usual proportion of filth which is to be seen throughout Spain. The bridge over the Guadalquivir, consisting of several irregular arches, and built by the Moors, is an interesting object, both on account of its great antiquity as well as the architecture. The river flows, as at Seville, with a rapid dis-

coloured stream, and overflows its banks very quickly. After a lengthened course of 250 miles, it empties its waters into the sea at St. Lucar.

The great mosque or cathedral, *ecclesia mayor*, built by Abderrahmen, in the eighth century, is the principal object worthy of notice, and is indeed almost the only relic remaining of its ancient splendour. The existence of this edifice as a place of Christian worship may be dated from *1236*, the period of the conquest of Cordova; when it was converted, by Ferdinand, into a cathedral. On entering it, one is forcibly struck with the singularity of its architecture, and a labyrinth presents itself to the eye composed of low columns which support the building, to the number, it is said, of 1000. On the whole the effect is certainly extremely striking, although entirely devoid of sublimity and grandeur of conception; and the stranger, while he surveys the long extended avenues of pillars which form a complete maze throughout the interior of this immense edifice, and beholds both their diminutive proportion and the lowness of the roof, might almost fancy himself within the palace of some fairy or genii. On leaving the mosque you pass through the patio de naranjos, the garden court of the cathedral, which is planted somewhat similar to the one at Seville, with citron and orange trees; and

in summer must be delightful, the perfumed air being cooled by water which plays from different basins.

The first Roman colony planted in Spain, and supposed to have been founded during the second Punic war, the birthplace of Lucan and the two Senecas, and associated as this city is with so many recollections of its ancient magnificence and power, Cordova, in these days, cannot but present a melancholy and interesting object to the traveller. Once it was the Athens of Europe, the cradle of the sciences, the resort of learned men from all parts of the globe, and the abode of splendour and luxury: what a contrast does it offer at the present day, swarming with monks and beggars, the seat of bigotry, intolerance, superstition, ignorance, poverty, and crime!

Cordova under the caliphs is said to have contained 800 public schools, 500 charitable institutions, 900 public baths, 600 mosques, and to have had a million of inhabitants*, the royal guard consisting of 12,000 men. The splendour and magnificence, indeed, of the court of Cordova during the sway of the caliphs, appears not a little extraordinary in these days, and the de-

* Although the ancient population of Cordova may, perhaps, have been greatly exaggerated by history, yet it doubtless was very considerable; at the present it is probably under 20,000.

scription, in particular, of the palace of Zehra, handed down to us by the historians of those times, would seem almost fabulous if the remains of the Alhambra did not enable us to form a correct idea of the taste and capabilities of the Spanish Arabs. This fairy palace is supposed to have been situated in the neighbourhood of the city, and to have been erected by Abderrahmen in honour of a favourite slave, from whom it derived its name of Zehra. In the centre of the principal saloon, which was adorned with golden arabesques, and the walls of which are said to have been of lapis lazuli, set with precious stones, was a magnificent basin of alabaster, from which issued a fountain of quicksilver glistening from the blaze of innumerable lamps of crystal. The structure was, besides, ornamented with 12000 pillars of different-coloured marbles, and is said to have cost 300 millions of reals. Not a vestige now remains to point out the site of a building which must have vied with many of those so glowingly depicted in the pages of the Arabian tales.

During the reign of Abderrahmen the arts and sciences were encouraged and flourished in an extraordinary degree; poetry, architecture, painting, sculpture, geometry, astronomy, chemistry, and medicine were cultivated with a success unknown in later ages in Spain; agriculture was then perfectly understood; the in-

genious Arab knew well how to counteract the effect of the ardent rays of a southern sun, and to refresh the parched earth by those means nature had given him, irrigation; and which have since been neglected by the inactive Spaniard.

There were in those ages fisheries of pearls and coral; mines were worked to a great extent; various kinds of manufactures were brought to a degree of perfection since unknown, and an extensive trade in silks was carried on with the Levant. Consider the condition of this ill-fated country in the nineteenth century, and compare it with what it was during the above-mentioned period. It is true that Christianity has taken the place of the religion of Mahomet; but how much lower in the animal scale does the bigoted Spaniard of the present day appear when compared with the enlightened and liberal Mussulman of former ages! Who can think without sorrow and indignation on the fallen condition of this fine kingdom, so favoured by nature, so cursed by man, and not look forward with joy and eagerness to the day, not very far distant, when bigotry, ignorance, and persecution will be trodden under foot, with far more success than has attended the efforts of despotism to crush the rising spirit of justice and freedom!

It would be an endless task to detail the numerous points of resemblance and affinity which

the present race of Spaniards bears to the Moors; almost every part of Spain which has been under the Mahometan dominion exhibits them in great variety; and the traveller who has been sufficiently long in Morocco to become acquainted with the people, and familiarised in some measure with their habits, customs, make, and fashion of numerous articles of commerce and manufacture, cannot fail, on his return to Spain, to recognize the traces of the Mussulman at almost every step, particularly in the kingdoms of Seville, Granada, and Cordova.

When he sees the Andalusian cavallero mounted on his fiery steed, every part of his trappings and accoutrements recalls to his recollection what has before struck his eye in Morocco; even the costume of the rider will be found to bear a closer resemblance to the Moorish dress than might be supposed; the wide spreading capa or cloak of the Spaniard, one end of which is thrown over the left shoulder, is merely a modification of the hayk; while the manner in which the Andalusian peasant carries his pelisse, borne also across his left shoulder, is precisely the way in which the Moorish sulham is also borne; the short loose trousers, the sash which girds the waist, and even the jacket itself, with tight-fitting sleeves, and adorned with buttons at the sides, like the kaftan, will be found to bear a pretty close affinity with

similar parts of the Moorish costume; while in the mode in which the handkerchief is so frequently seen worn round the foreheads of the men will be easily recognized the Moorish turban. If the component parts of the female Spanish costume were in like manner to be analyzed, the mantilla, the jacket, &c., the similitude would be no less apparent.

Among the letters which the kindness of Sir George Don had furnished me for my journey was one addressed to Colonel Downie, a countryman. This officer, who served with considerable distinction during the whole of the war under his gallant brother, Sir John Downie, whose name is so well known in the annals of the peninsular campaigns, was at this time one of the superior officers of the third regiment of lancers, in quarters at Cordova. It is always a satisfaction and a pleasure to meet with a fellow-countryman when abroad, and particularly in Spain; and I thought myself very fortunate in finding Colonel Downie here, who, by his perfect knowledge of the country and the influence which his conciliatory manners had procured him at Cordova, was likely to prove of no inconsiderable assistance to me. This now turned out to be the case in a way that I had not anticipated, and which accidental circumstances had occasioned. I had arrived but a short time, when I received a summons to

attend the commandant one evening after dark, and when, having composed myself in my quarters, I did not feel much inclined to attend to the messenger, who was waiting to conduct me. On reaching his house, after having traversed, without the aid of a single lamp, an infinity of dark narrow streets, I was ushered into the presence of an elderly personage, who I could perceive had been accustomed to be treated with not a little respect, and to have his own way. He was not long in informing me, after having made some inquiries respecting the objects of my visit to Cordova, that there was a considerable irregularity in my passport: in short, that I had left Granada without having received permission so to do, my passport not having been signed by the authorities previous to my leaving that city as I had thought it had been; and that it was absolutely necessary for me to return, in order that the error which had been committed should be rectified without loss of time; without this he assured me it was impossible that I could be allowed to pursue my journey towards Madrid. This piece of information, which did not sound very agreeable in my ears, was delivered with a kind of *sang froid* and easy appearance, as if he doubted not but that I should feel much pleasure in complying with his request, and in retracing my steps to Granada instanter. I thought it, there-

fore, as well to undeceive him in this respect as quickly as possible, and assured him that I considered it much too late to adopt his suggestion, and that I had long since fixed my travelling route, which was in the direction of Madrid, and no other. In truth, I had no mind, even for the pleasure of revisiting the Alhambra, to see the city of Granada a second time so soon, and to be obliged again to retrace my weary steps, in the winter season, for three days, across the dreary tract of mountain that I had passed.

The old gentleman, although extremely civil, was pretty positive; and although he said he was extremely sorry at giving me so much trouble, he declared it could not possibly be avoided. I did not, for my part, see it in the same light; nevertheless, as I had made up my mind on the subject, which was not to budge a step, in the direction at least of Granada, I listened with attention to him; and having then taken my leave, repaired to the quarters of Colonel Downie, to get me out of the scrape in which my own carelessness as well as ignorance had involved me. On explaining the matter to him, he bade me be easy about it; and having accompanied me back, without loss of time, to the residence of the commandant, he pleaded in so determined a manner on my behalf, that at last he consented to sign my passport in a way which would not compromise him with the

authorities of Madrid, and at the same time allow of my proceeding on my journey towards the capital. Thus ended the matter.

The passport system in Spain is enforced with such strictness, and there is such a variety of minutiæ to attend to in the regulations of it, that it is ten to one that an English traveller does not get himself into some scrape, either from mere inattention or ignorance of what is necessary to be done.

The inhabitants of Cordova are probably the most bigoted of any town in Spain, and it is on this account not the most desirable place for a stranger to remain at, and particularly for an Englishman, who, generally speaking, is not over cautious in his proceedings, and cares little about what he says or does. The very air of the city, its dark and narrow streets, and the general gloom which prevails, are almost sufficient to indicate the character of the people. I had now assumed my usual dress, and it was not very easy to mistake me for any thing but an Englishman; and as I took my daily walks, the grave and austere countenances, and the contemptuous looks cast on the poor heretic, betrayed, I thought, no very mild or christian-like spirit within their breasts. I almost fancied, indeed, that I was once more among the Moors! In no place, probably, are there more outward and visible signs of religion than at Cordova, not

even excepting Seville: as to the reality, it is probably much on a par as elsewhere. At the corner of every street, almost, you stumble upon an altar, at which presides a distorted ridiculous figure of the Virgin, attired in petticoats of silken brocade, and with a tinsel stomacher, tricked out with mock gems, with an infant Jesus, still more ludicrously dressed. It is hardly possible to help laughing at the mummery, and yet it is not the safest thing to indulge one's risible propensities, as, should you chance to be observed by any one of the bigoted crowd around, it would fare ill with you.

No one laughs at Cordova, and I do not recollect having observed any one indulging in that necessary relaxation of the human countenance, except my friend Colonel Downie, who has not yet accustomed himself so far to the habits of the good people of Cordova, although he has been so long among them. For my part, I had not a little difficulty in behaving myself conformably to the custom of the town; and it was only in the evening, when I got back to my large rambling posada or fonda, by which latter title it may perhaps be dignified, and which was situated just opposite the cathedral, that I had an opportunity of relaxing myself. Seated there in an arm-chair, which I was lucky enough to get hold of, and with my legs stretched over a chafing-dish of hot ashes, for it was exceedingly chilly, I made myself as happy as a poor

lonely sinner could be with a cigar in his mouth and a bottle of Valdepeñas wine by his side. This, to do my host justice, was by far the best I had tasted in Spain, and would have shamed the contents of the best store at the place of its growth.

Before I took my leave of Cordova I paid a visit to the hermitage of Nuestra Señora, about two miles from the city, which deserves the traveller's inspection, not only on account of the austerity of life which the recluses lead, but also of the beauty and singularity of its situation, which is perched midway on the precipitous and almost inaccessible sides of the Sierra Morena.

The kindness of Colonel Downie had furnished me with a few lines of recommendation to one of the holy fathers, and after crossing the rich and pleasant vega of Cordova, I reached the Sierra Morena. This celebrated range rises here abruptly from the plain, and is picturesquely wooded. A zigzag path along the side of the mountain brought us, after infinite toil and labour, owing to the steepness of the ascent, to the airy habitation of these holy recluses, whose nests are snugly perched on different points of the rock, sheltered by the Sierra, which rises still higher above them.

The hermitages are romanticly disposed, and their neat and simple appearance is strongly contrasted with the wild scenery around them.

Lonely as their situation may appear, their

vicinity to Cordova induces numbers, particularly on a Sunday, to pay this petty Montserrat a visit, induced by curiosity or pious motives.

The time had already expired that I had allotted for my stay at Cordova, and I prepared for my route towards Madrid. On reaching the former city, I had gained the great road which leads from the metropolis to Seville; and as I had now an opportunity of continuing my journey by means of the Diligence, I determined to do so. I had lately jogged so many hundred miles on horseback in Barbary and Spain, that I began to be tired of this necessary though tedious mode of conveyance; and as there was now no longer any necessity for my continuing it, I determined upon a change, not only for the sake of variety, but also of expedition, comfort, and security.

Having accordingly made the few arrangements necessary, obtained a supply of cash from Señor Soldevilla, to whose house I had brought a letter of recommendation, and taken leave of Colonel Downie, I retired in good time to my quarters, as the Diligence was expected at a very early hour the following morning.

It was just break of day, when, having made a hasty breakfast on the remnants of my supper the preceding evening, and taken a last embrace of the Valdepeñas wine, the parting with which not a little increased my melancholy, I left my

chamber, and proceeded with my luggage to the posada near the bridge, where the Diligence, which was expected from Seville, was to change horses and breakfast. On reaching the spot, I found that it would be half an hour before its arrival, and I accordingly occupied the interval in taking a stroll for the last time around the great mosque. Its spacious courts were now silent and deserted; no sound was heard but the echo of my footsteps; and as I paced along I could not avoid looking back to those times when, instead of the matin-bell, the deep voice of the muezzin was heard at early dawn from the lofty minarets, and the white flowing robes of the stately Moslem were seen sweeping through the mazes of its labyrinth of columns.

It was not long before a distant rumbling announced the approach of my expected conveyance, and quickening my steps I hastened back to the posada, where I found the Seville diligence just arrived. This unwieldy machine, which I shall have occasion to speak of by and by, had fortunately one seat in the best part of it at liberty, which I accordingly secured. Half an hour having been consumed in breakfast and other preparations for the day's journey, the horses were put to; and after rolling heavily along the gloomy streets of Cordova we reached the open country, when we proceeded with far greater celerity than might have been expected

from so ponderous a vehicle. We had not left Cordova many miles behind us, when an untoward circumstance took place, which had very nearly stopped our career in a sudden and abrupt way. Our drivers, with their usual caution and regard for our necks, were hurrying us forward at full gallop over a bridge, and had just dragged us safe across, which I hardly expected could have been the case, when our trusty beasts, as if actuated by one common impulse, deviated from the road so suddenly and unexpectedly, that it was quite out of the power of the mayoral, or driver, to prevent them dragging our machine and its contents, to our dismay, down a steep declivity. The diligence, during this operation, had very fortunately preserved its equilibrium, and the peasants, who were in attendance upon their cattle, had just time to overtake it when on the point of falling over; and, supporting it by main force until level ground was once more gained, by these means extricated us from our dangerous situation. The road from Cordova to Andujar, the first place in the day's journey at which a halt is made, passes through a well-cultivated country, watered by the Guadalquivir, and along the banks of which the traveller pursues his way. The sameness of the plain is agreeably relieved by the windings of the river, and the landscape is at the same time heightened by the fine dark

wooded ranges of the Sierra Morena, which skirt the valley on the left of the road. At Alcolea the Guadalquivir is crossed by a really magnificent bridge of several arches, which surprises the stranger from its architecture and dimensions. From Santa Cecilia, the last post, we had two leagues and a half to Andujar, which we accomplished about five o'clock in the afternoon, after a journey this day of thirteen leagues and a half, or rather more than fifty miles. Before entering the town, we crossed the Guadalquivir by a handsome stone bridge, and the contents of the Diligence were shortly afterwards safely deposited within the principal posada. Here we were to halt until midnight, and while dinner or supper was preparing I took a stroll, in company with some of my brother travellers, through the place.

Andujar is an ancient town, close upon the borders of the kingdoms of Cordova and Jaen, in the latter of which it is situated, and surrounded by a fertile and well cultivated country. There is nothing particular to attract the attention of the traveller, although some mutilated remnants of Roman antiquity occasionally meet the eye, as is the case generally throughout Andalusia, and excite the recollection that this fine country was in earlier times subject to a different race.

The kingdom of Jaen, which comprises the

northern and eastern districts of Andalusia, is the smallest of the four kingdoms constituting this extensive province, and is almost entirely enclosed by a chain of mountains. Its principal towns are Jaen, the capital, Andujar, Ubeda, and Baeza.

On our return, as we were about to re-enter our quarters, our attention was attracted by a group of forlorn wretched-looking beings, assembled in the plaża opposite the posada, whose tattered garments, but once perhaps uniform, now exhibited all the variety of wretchedness, and very faintly denoted the profession of the wearers. On inquiry, I learned that they were the miserable remnants of the Marquis de Chave's troops, who had been allowed by the government to take refuge in Spain; Andujar having been allotted as the place of their exile. Hearing that they were about assembling for evening prayer, it being now sunset, I entered a small barrack-yard, and was civilly received by three or four of their officers, whose appearance too plainly betokened what they had suffered in common with their men. It was an interesting sight, while regarding their worn countenances and cheeks shrunk from hunger and suffering, to observe the serious attention and demeanour with which they heard the evening service read by one of their officers. In our own country religion is scarcely considered as coming within

the sphere of a soldier's duties, and a spectacle similar to the above might be vainly looked for.

As the diligence was not to proceed on its journey until some time after midnight, in order that it might have daylight for the pass of the Sierra Morena, we had a tolerable period allotted to us for getting a little rest, of which we availed ourselves, after we had despatched our supper and a few cigars. To my great satisfaction, my passport, which had been taken away with those of the other passengers for the inspection of the authorities of the place, was returned properly signed; which a good deal removed the apprehensions I had entertained of any further interruption on the ground of its irregularity.

We were roused at an early hour with the intelligence so agreeable to the tired traveller who, awakened out of a warm sleep on a cold winter's morning, is told that "the coach is ready." The Spaniard, who sleeps generally in his clothes, does not need much time for the morning toilet; and we were, therefore, no sooner called, than a dozen passengers, who had been my bed-neighbours, jumped out on the floor ready dressed, to pursue their journey. After a cup of hot chocolate had been hastily swallowed, followed, as it invariably is in Spain, by a glass of clear sparkling water, cigars were

lighted, and in we tumbled to our respective berths in the diligence; my companions beguiling their time with silent puffing, while I, huddled up in a corner, tried to renew my broken slumbers. The night or morning was pitch-dark, not a star twinkled, and we rolled heavily forwards towards the mountains without the assistance of a single lamp to guide our lonely course.

At the first post we reached we found the approach to the Sierra Morena guarded by a detachment of lancers from Cordova, belonging to Colonel Downie's regiment, who were stationed here as a protection to travellers from the attacks of banditti, this spot being one of their favourite haunts.

A considerable time had passed in a kind of uneasy doze, when the voices of my fellow-travellers awoke me, and I found from their conversation that we were now passing over the field of battle of Baylen. Dawn had scarcely yet begun to glimmer, and as I looked out, all that I could distinguish were the gray vapours of morning, occasionally unfolding to the eye a tract of plain, the scene of the conflict. It was here that Dupont, having evacuated Cordova, which he had taken by storm, came in contact with the Spanish army under Reding, who was trying to cut off the communication with Madrid. The battle, which was the first effectual blow

struck at the power of Napoleon, was fought July 19, 1808, and ended in the surrender of General Dupont and his troops, amounting to near 20,000 men.

Daylight now disclosed more plainly the face of the country, and showed us that we were fast approaching the high ranges of the Sierra Morena. Before proceeding any farther, I shall give a slight sketch of the machine about to drag us across these mountains, which have derived so amusing a renown from the pen of Cervantes. In shape the Spanish diligence differs little from the French, the construction of the former being only much clumsier, as might be expected in a country where so little contrivance and skill are displayed in the manufacture of most articles. It consists principally of two separate bodies, capable of holding six persons each, the centre one being the most commodious and best adapted for a long journey; each seat is numbered, and when once taken, is retained through the journey. On this account it is an object of no small importance, in a vehicle which, from the hugeness of its bulk, may be likened to a house on wheels, and where, during light and darkness, you are to be caged up for several days, to select what a sailor would call "a good berth;" a corner seat being of course the first thing to be thought of, as should the unlucky wight of a passenger get into the middle seat, he would, when oppressed

by weariness, and deprived by sleep of his natural balance of position, be obliged to trespass heavily upon the shoulders of his more fortunate corner companions, and being bandied from one to the other, combined with the tossing of the coach, might well fancy himself, during his uneasy slumbers, in purgatory. The hinder body is occupied by inferior passengers, and part of the armed escort which protects the coach. In addition to these two bodies, there is a small seat in front holding three persons, and which, I believe, in the French diligence is called the coupé. This is preferred by many persons. It is, however, very confined, and which is worse, being any thing but air-tight, and, from its situation, having to bear the brunt of the night blast, the passenger has little chance of enjoying a warm nap, which he may do in the centre. On these accounts, the latter I think is far preferable.

I may now as well introduce the reader to the persons to whom the care of our throats and pockets were committed—the escort which was to accompany us to Madrid. This consisted of four ill-looking ruffians, all well armed, two of them mounted, and the others occupying the hinder body of our vehicle. The history of these worthies may be summed up as follows:—It appears that the Seville diligence, in which I was now seated, had

been stopped and plundered so frequently of late, and the proprietors found it such a losing speculation, that it became absolutely necessary either to give up the concern altogether, or else to come to some terms with these illegal collectors of the road. The latter course had been accordingly pursued, and we were now reaping the fruits of it. The policy of the old saying, "Set a thief to catch a thief," has been verified in other countries besides Spain; and those who know any thing of the world need not be told that even a blind rogue can see as well as an honest man with his eyes open.

The arrangement that had been made was as follows, namely, that in consideration of a pretty considerable sum in good hard dollars, to be paid annually in regular instalments, the amount of which seemed to me so extravagant, that I do not like to state it, the diligence was to be allowed for the future to proceed quietly and unmolested on its different journeys from Seville to Madrid, and Madrid to Seville.

It was indeed a subject of much doubt whether the principal party in this transaction possessed sufficient power to guarantee the performance of the whole of this covenant, as it appeared to tread upon the jurisdiction of others; and not without reason, as has been since confirmed by experience. Be this as it may, so it was agreed; and in order to carry this amicable arrangement

more fully, and with greater certainty, into effect, the four partners belonging to this roving concern pledged themselves to its execution, and to accompany the Seville diligence every journey in order to protect the passengers and their property; and thus were four robbers suddenly and strangely metamorphosed into honest and respectable characters, while thus watching over the safety of peaceable persons. This ingenious system, I was told, worked well; the other brigands, who were not so interested in preserving the treaty inviolate, much to their honour, made no factious opposition to it, and the diligence, generally speaking, performed its journeys to Madrid and back in safety. Now and then, it was true, there was a little hitch in the affair, and occasionally, I learned, that the diligence was stopped, and its passengers stripped to their very shirts, in spite of their protectors. This was, however, but rarely the case, and when it occurred, it originated entirely in a new party entering into opposition with the old, hoping to obtain a share of the profits of the concern; and it must be confessed, that all due regret was shown by the honest men on the occurrence of such a circumstance.

The last person I shall here notice was he to whom the management of the escort was intrusted, and who was far superior to the rest in manner and appearance; he was gaily dressed

in the Andalusian costume, was mounted on a fine spirited horse, and it was not difficult, from his bold determined looks and cast of countenance, to pronounce what he was best fitted for. In short, he had been a celebrated bandit chief, the terror and talk of the whole country, whose name and exploits had caused more consternation than any one else in the south of Spain.

I need not here detail the murders he had been obliged to commit in the course of his calling, or the numberless daring exploits that had shed so brilliant a celebrity on his name. In short, he was a very Captain Rolando, and for aught I know was a lineal descendant of that great man, so renowned in history. Whatever he was, and his name has escaped my memory, he was now placed at our command, and we, at least, had no manner of reason to complain of him, but, on the contrary, to be satisfied with his services and attentions.

From the enormous bulk and weight of the machine in which we were travelling, it might naturally have been supposed that our progress would have been proportionably slow and tedious. This was, however, far from being the case; on the contrary, we proceeded with a velocity which to a nervous person would have been alarming enough, considering the manner in which our progress was effected. On account

of our heavy load, and to enable us to surmount the steep ascents of the mountains we were about to cross, we had been now furnished with an additional number of mules; and for the first, and most probably the last, time in my life, I saw myself literally riding in a coach and twelve—for the number of animals attached to the diligence actually amounted to a dozen. To get this drove of beasts to act with one common consent, and to impel them first into a trot, and finally into a full gallop, was a work of herculean difficulty; and, to effect it, a scene took place which beggars all description, as the common phrase runs, and which I have made use of for want of a better. Let the reader try to imagine a long line of stubborn refractory mules, loosely yoked two and three together without any order, and attached by sundry pieces of old rope for harness—and behold our team. The Spaniards are in the habit of giving names to their beasts, and ours were distinguished on this occasion in a manner which was ludicrous enough: there were the Colonel's Wife, Coronela; Señora, the Lady; Chiquita, the Little-one; and Condesa, the Countess; besides several others, whose titles I have forgot, and who were severally addressed by the mayoral, or driver, with that emphasis and musical tone so striking in the dialect of Andalusia. Other appeals more forcible than those of words were

besides made, with effect, to the feelings of these skittish ladies, both by the coachman and the peasants to whom they belonged, and the latter, running alongside of them, kept kicking their sides and belabouring their backs with long sticks, in a manner that would have flayed any animal but a Spanish mule, whose hide, of the consistence of a board, is well calculated to resist the frequent attacks made upon it. After an infinite deal of trouble, or, as the Spaniards say, "mucho trabajo," the whole cavalcade were, by these repeated caresses, coaxed into a good round trot; to increase which pace into a gallop now became the consideration of all parties. In order to effect this the better, the runners picked hastily up a collection of stones of various shapes and dimensions, from the size of a pigeon's egg to the bigness of one's fist, which they handed to the mayoral, who placed them by his side, to be used by him at discretion. A most horrible uproar now ensued, occasioned by the loud shouts and vociferations of all parties, in the midst of which the mayoral began to bring his ammunition into play by discharging a volley of stones at the unfortunate brutes before him; a practice at which the Spanish drivers are singularly expert. He first raised his hand against Senora, who was inclined to lag, and planted such a thumping pebble upon her ladyship's hide, that it resounded like a drum: poor Chi-

quita next came in for her turn; and afterwards Coronela suffered the effects of his dexterity by a stone which fell at the back of her ears:—not one escaped; and although some were so far off as might well have been supposed safe, and out of the reach of fire, it made no difference, so strong was the arm, and so unerring the aim, of our charioteer. The unmerciful pelting was borne with the greatest patience by all except the Countess; as arrant a jade as a personage of her rank could be, and who was so irresistibly tickled by a stone dexterously planted near her tail by el Señor Mayoral, that she lashed out with such right good will and spirit, that her legs were by far the most conspicuous and active part of her body, and threatened destruction to the poor quadruped unfortunately in her rear.

While he, our zealous coachman, was thus employed, his efforts were ably seconded by the peasants on foot, and such a shower of blows and stones fell on all sides, that it was impossible to resist the appeals made, and the whole procession unanimously agreed upon a full gallop, which pace was now continued without interruption for a considerable distance. On we went towards the Sierra Morena with so unmanageable and fearful a degree of speed, that it was quite a startling thing to witness the progress we made, when the unwieldiness of the

machine was considered. Our course might be compared to the tortuous motions of a snake, first bordering upon one side of the road, then bounding to the other, and being twenty times within an ace, as it is called, of being tumbled headlong over, and coach, mules, and passengers involved in one common fate.

I will not recount the manifold and hair-breadth escapes we appeared every minute to incur; suffice to say, that after proceeding in this manner for some miles, the increasing steepness of the ascent obliged the poor beasts to moderate their speed; their united powers, breathless and panting as they were, being now barely sufficient to enable them to drag the ponderous load behind them up the precipitous sides of these mountains.

Two leagues from Baylen stands Guarroman, the first of the German settlements founded by Charles III. in the Sierra Morena. The little town is regularly built, but its general appearance, as well as its inhabitants, does not denote any great degree of comfort or prosperity. All this part of the country, and La Mancha in particular, on the borders of which we were approaching, has suffered dreadfully from the effects of the war, from which it will take many years to recover, although assisted by a far better government than now presides over Spain.

It was early in the day, when, after considerable labour, we reached La Carolina, the principal town of the German colonies. These settlements have not realized the expectations that were entertained in founding them, and their look certainly does not impress the traveller with an idea that they are in a very flourishing condition. We were now about the centre of the Sierra Morena, and after a lengthened and very laborious ascent of some hours, we reached the summit of the mountains, and halted to recover our poor animals, almost exhausted with fatigue. From this point a very commanding and magnificent view is obtained of the greater part of the range, the interest of which is not a little heightened when the traveller recalls to his mind, that he is now overlooking the principal scene of the exploits of the renowned hero of La Mancha, the pleasant fiction of which has shed so lasting a celebrity, both upon its ingenious author, as well as the dusky mountains thus signalised by him.

Here it was that our knight, at the suggestion of his trusty and prudent squire, sought refuge from the claws of the holy brotherhood after the scurvy and ungrateful treatment he had received from Gines de Passamonte and the rest of the galley slaves, in return for having rescued them; and it was the neighbourhood of the spot where we now stood that once resounded with the

lamentations of Sancho for the loss of his affectionate Dapple, whom the rogue had carried off. Here did Don Quixote encounter the poor distracted Cardenio; and, together with his squire, receive from the ragged knight the rough treatment brought upon him by his generous espousal of the cause of the calumniated Queen Madasima. Amid these rocks it was that the Knight of the Woful Figure, in imitation of the renowned Amadis, who in consequence assumed the title of Beltenebros, or the Lovely Obscure, underwent that celebrated penance, the token of his passion and despair, which alone of all his actions would have conferred immortal renown upon his name. Here, lastly, did the beauteous Dorothea, transformed at once into the Princess Micomicona, put in practice the pleasant stratagem which had the effect of restoring the worthy gentleman again to his home.

Without pretending that I was exactly overpowered with the above reflections, they were strong enough, founded in fiction as they were, to give an additional charm to the scene now before us; and it required but the vision of fancy to descry the amorous knight stretched at the foot of some spreading cork-tree, his muse pouring out her lamentations for the absent Dulcinea del Toboso, or to behold him at a distance playing those remarkable antics, the

performance of which so shocked the sight of his squire.

Having now reached the highest point, we commenced our descent towards the plains of La Mancha. The view from this is striking, overlooking the entire slope of the mountain, which is picturesquely broken and wooded. The road which is seen winding far below is admirably formed, and is probably not inferior to any thing of the kind in Europe. I need hardly add it is not the work of the Spaniards of the present day, having been constructed by Charles III. on the establishment of the settlements in the Sierra Morena. To this sovereign Spain is indebted for the many splendid and useful works which, during his reign, were carried on and completed for the purpose of facilitating a general communication throughout the kingdom; and the stranger, in passing the Sierra Morena, cannot help being astonished at so magnificent and lasting a memorial of his greatness, presented so unexpectedly and agreeably to his eye. The scenery of these mountains, which derive their appellation of Sierra Morena, literally "the dark mountain," from the gloomy character given to it by its wooded sides, is undoubtedly fine, but far inferior, I think, in wildness and beauty of scenery to Andalusia; and when compared to the sublime elevation of

the Granada chain, to which they are far inferior, its character appears tame and insipid.

It was in January, 1810, that the French army, under Marshal Soult, drew near to the Sierra Morena with the intention of invading Andalusia. The Spaniards, in consequence of these demonstrations, having selected the strongest positions, commenced the erecting of batteries, and rendering impassable the roads over the mountains. Notwithstanding this, the French army succeeded with scarcely any resistance on the part of the Spaniards, who were, however, far inferior in numbers, in forcing their way over the passes of the Sierra Morena in spite of the obstacles that had been formed to stop their progress; and, on the 22nd, Marshal Soult established his head quarters at Baylen. A considerable number of the Spanish troops were made prisoners, and the remainder being dispersed, no further resistance was made to the invading army, which then advanced upon both Seville and Cordova; and these having surrendered, little remained to complete the conquest of Andalusia.

A division of the army, commanded by Sebastiani, next took possession of Granada and Malaga, although the latter city was not given up until after a most determined and obstinate resistance, which did the people infinite credit,

and retrieved, though too late, the reputation that had been lost by the yielding so easily the important key of Andalusia, the Sierra Morena. Thus, with the exception of Cadiz, Andalusia was now in possession of the French, who had then overrun the whole of it in so short a time and with such little resistance: whereas, had the important pass of the Sierra Morena been as well defended by man as by nature, not a French foot would ever have been suffered to cross it.

At La Carolina we changed mules, and, proceeding on from thence to Santa Elena, another of the settlements, two leagues more brought us to the lonely venta de Cardenas. This has acquired a celebrity from its being the place, as we were told, where Don Quixote, after having watched his armour during the night, agreeably to the rules of knight errantry, was dubbed a knight by the constable of the castle, alias mine host.

It was impossible to pass by a spot, the theatre of such memorable and interesting events, without a feeling of curiosity, nay, even enthusiasm; and accordingly, tumbling out of the huge machine in which we were confined, whilst the mules were changing, I occupied the time in inspecting the place. The venta de Cardenas is fashioned, as these kind of establishments are in Spain, in a very rude and primitive

style; and, although transformed into a castle by the luxuriant imagination of our adventurous knight, a stranger unused to the country would have much more difficulty than Sancho had in recognising it even for what it is intended to be, a house of entertainment; the signs of which, both inside and out, were any thing but evident. To describe it in few words, the venta de Cardenas is a long, capacious, naked building, through which, as is generally the case, you can ride or drive ad libitum without meeting with any impediment, except perhaps mules or other animals. At the back of the premises is an adjoining yard, which, with the help of a little fancy, will do well enough to represent the spot where our mirror of chivalry remained during the night, wrapped up in amorous cogitations, and intent upon guarding his armour against the unceremonious attacks of the carriers upon it.

The venta de Cardenas lies at the foot of the Sierra Morena, and not very far from it a pillar by the side of the road points out to the traveller the boundaries of Andalusia and La Mancha. In bidding adieu to the former, I did it with regret, as every traveller must do in quitting this beautiful and interesting part of Spain. The cradle of early romance, blessed with so delicious a climate, embracing both the productions of the tropics and northern climes,

according to the elevation of the country, and adorned with natural features not often to be equalled in other parts of the world,—all these appear heightened in the extreme when the desolate plains of La Mancha present themselves to the view. From Almoradiel, where they may be said to commence, to Temblequé, a distance of twenty-two leagues, the country is perfectly flat, and the appearance of it dreary and monotonous in the extreme. The small towns we passed through were generally wretched-looking, half in ruins from the effects of the war; and the swarm of miserable objects that crowded around the diligence on its arrival could only be surpassed by similar scenes in Ireland.

There are but few convents in La Mancha, compared with Andalusia, and the poorer classes in consequence are much worse off in the towns; whereas in the latter the number of persons dependent on, and partly or almost entirely supported by, these establishments is very considerable. The inhabitants of La Mancha are taller in stature and more serious and graver in their demeanour than the Andalusians; their dress being at the same time dark and sombre, and very different from the gay varied costume worn by the former.

Our last post for the day was Santa Cruz, the first town in La Mancha. From thence to Valde-

peñas, where the diligence was to make a halt of some hours, was a distance of two leagues.

We reached this small town, celebrated for the delicious red wine which bears its name, about an hour before dark, and put up at the principal, and, I believe, the only posada; a comfortless kind of place, where our cheer turned out much more indifferent than we could have anticipated. My fellow-travellers had looked forward to our halt at Valdepeñas with considerable pleasure, in order to regale themselves with its celebrated nectar, which had produced too strong an impression on me, from the acquaintance I had made with it at Cordova, not to wish to taste once more the contents of the wine-skins of La Mancha, and to quaff, on the very spot of its growth, the blood of the mighty giant, the spilling of which forms so pleasant a narration among the recorded adventures of the redoubtable knight. It turned out, however, that our palates were not doomed to be tickled in so agreeable a manner; for, having despatched the usual ragout of the Spanish cuisine, and called for some of mine host's best, upon conveying it to our lips we found it to be of so vile a quality that, although we were by no means squeamish, it was impossible to drink it. It was to equal purpose that we instituted a search in the different stores of the place. We

did not succeed in obtaining a single drinkable bottle of wine, and were at last compelled to content ourselves with arguadiente. The Valdepeñas wine, the produce of the neighbouring districts, deserves a notice here, as it is by far the best of Spanish light wines, and will be, I think, rarely found equalled in any country. If more care and attention were bestowed, both upon the cultivation of the grape and the making of the wine, it would, probably, be the best wine of the class in Europe. It is extremely difficult to procure good, and it was only on two occasions that I met with it at all tolerable.

The constitution of this wine being remarkably delicate renders the transport of it a matter of risk and uncertainty, which is the principal cause why it is not oftener met with in our own country. The difficulties of communication with La Mancha, which in this respect is almost cut off from the provinces on the coast, being far inland and hemmed in by chains of mountains, is also another powerful reason why it does not find its way out of the country more readily: the only means of its transport being mules, on which it is conveyed in skins.

Valdepeñas is not unlike a light Burgundy, but far more delicate and smoother in its flavour, and altogether, I think, superior. Experienced persons assert, that notwithstanding

the appearance and taste may induce the belief that it has not sufficient body for keeping, yet that the contrary is the case, and that it can be preserved good for a considerable number of years, provided it be in good order, and that favourable circumstances have attended its carriage. It is rarely to be met with altogether free from a strong and rancid taste, arising from the borracha, or skin, in which it is conveyed, and which flavour is nevertheless esteemed by many persons. The vintage is sometimes so abundant at Valdepeñas, and casks so scarce, that the wine-growers are glad to spill the old wine when it happens to be the produce of an inferior vintage, in order to make room for that of a superior quality.

After we had had about five hours' sleep, we were roused from our beds a little after midnight, and packing ourselves inside the diligence, again pursued our journey, fortifying ourselves as well as we could from the cold, which was considerable. The traveller loses little or nothing by passing through a country like La Mancha in the dark; and, on this account, I regretted the less our setting off at so unseasonable an hour, which is unavoidable, on account of the length of the journey, and in order to enable the diligence to reach Madrid on the fifth day from its leaving Seville.

When morning dawned on the horizon, its

gray light unfolded to our view the vast alluvial plains of La Mancha again stretching around, and in appearance as boundless as the ocean. La Mancha, which is divided into High and Low La Mancha, is one of the provinces which form Castilla la Nueva, or New Castile, being situated at the southern extremity of it, and surrounded by Estramadura, Murcia, Valencia, and the part of Andalusia comprising the kingdom of Jaen and Cordova. The whole province consists of plains of boundless extent enclosed by different mountain chains, of which the Sierra Morena forms its boundary to the south. Devoid of rivers, its soil is dry and sterile; while its scanty and decreasing population is so thinly scattered over an immense tract of country that the harvest is necessarily got in by people from other provinces, and a habitation will frequently not be seen for thirty miles. The inhabitants are said to be wealthy, although, from what I saw of them and the country in general, I should hardly suppose it to be the case.

The contrast that presents itself to the traveller on leaving Andalusia and entering La Mancha is striking enough; the surface of the former is broken by continued chains of lofty mountains, which spread themselves in various directions, while the latter is level as the sea, and may indeed be almost mistaken for it, from the uniformity of the surface and the very ex-

tensive view which skirts the horizon, unbroken by even a single tree. The character, dress, habits, and appearance of the inhabitants of La Mancha are, at the same time, totally dissimilar from those of the Andalusians; the climate is also different: and when the Sierra Morena is once passed, an effectual barrier is interposed to the warm southern breeze, and the difference in the vegetation attests the alteration of temperature.

We reached Puerto Lapiche, where we were to change horses, in good time in the morning, having passed through Manzanares, a tolerable-sized town. It was at the former place, the reader will perhaps recollect, that the famous rencontre that Don Quixote had with the Biscayans took place, when our knight, aided by his trusty squire, succeeded in rescuing the beautiful princess from the hands of certain necromancers who were carrying her away.

Toboso, so distinguished as the native place of our hero's peerless fair one, is far removed from the line of road on which we were journeying; and I had thus no opportunity of gratifying myself with the sight of a town which the pen of Cervantes has renderd so memorable.

We made our morning halt at Madridejos, a small and rather pretty town, three leagues beyond Puerto Lapiche; and having breakfasted, again proceeded on our road. The remainder

of our day's journey was for the greater part flat, and so little interesting, that I shall push on at once to Ocana, the principal town of Lower La Mancha, where we rested as usual, in order to dine and enjoy a few hours' sleep. It is a town of considerable size, situated in a fertile plain, containing several convents, and is also a cavalry quarter. A regiment of cuirassiers, whose turn of duty at Madrid had just ended, had arrived a few days previously, and while our dinner was preparing, I took the opportunity of attending their evening parade. They were by far the best specimen I had yet seen of the Spanish troops, and would be considered a fine body of men in any country. It was on the plains of Ocaña that the Spanish army, under General Arrizaga, was defeated by Marshal Soult, in November, 1809. The French army was far inferior in point of numbers to the Spaniards, who were, however, raw troops, and little capable of successfully opposing the disciplined and experienced forces of the French general.

The distance of Ocaña from Madrid is only about ten leagues, and on this account the mayoral allowed us to enjoy a greater portion of rest than had been hitherto allotted, from the shortness of the journey the following day.

Morning was just beginning to break when we reached Aranzuez, and gave us an imperfect

view of the gardens and stately groves of the palace, watered by the Tagus, which we shortly crossed. The country from hence was, as before, dreary and uninteresting, and the drought of the preceding summer had made its features still more uninviting. It was almost noon when we drew near to Madrid, of the close neighbourhood of which scarcely any indications presented themselves; no extended line of suburb showed itself, nor did we perceive the usual bustle which foretells the vicinity to a large and splendid metropolis. Situated in a parched and naked plain, Madrid presents, on approaching it from the great Seville road, an appearance any thing but attractive.

Crossing the Manzanares, which was almost dry, we entered the metropolis of Spain by a handsome stone bridge, close to which some wretched hovels formed a singular contrast to the magnificent buildings in their neighbourhood. The interior of the city presented, however, on our approach, an aspect very different and striking; and as we passed along a magnificent street, a considerable part of which was formed of the splendid palaces of the Spanish grandees, and crowded with smart people, we felt half ashamed of the dirty uncouth appearance we made, and of the clumsy contrivance of the machine which was dragging us slowly along.

CHAPTER X.

Madrid.—The Escurial.—Coldness of the Weather.—Departure for Madrid.—Difficult Passage of the Guadarrama Mountains.—Old Castile.—Night Halt at Lerma.—Coterie described.—Method of doing Business at Madrid.—The Condessa and her Companion.—Arrangement for the Night.—Burgos.—Enter Biscay.—Vitoria.—Tolosa. — Biscayan Peasants.—Pyrenees.—Irun.—Bayonne.—The Landes.—Bourdeaux.—Party of Nuns.—Poictiers.—Tours.—Paris.—Calais.—Arrival in England. 293

In commencing the description of any large and populous town or city, I always feel that I am attempting what I am not equal to; and on that account I own I am not sorry to find any excuse for glancing it over in the manner which has been adopted in the foregoing pages. The more the subject is considered the more I feel puzzled, neither knowing where to commence nor where to end, and being conscious that a metropolis is a little world of itself, for a description of which the pages of an entire volume would scarcely suffice.

The ever-varying surface of the mysterious deep, the hoary crest of the Alpine top, the dark and tangled forest, the firmament above, whether

glowing with the fierce blaze of a southern meridian, or sparkling by night in the icy regions of the north with myriads of quivering fires—the endless wonders, in short, of air, earth, and water, can scarcely be tamely depicted by an enthusiastic admirer of that Great Hand that has so curiously contrived and fashioned them. How much more difficult it is, however, to portray man—that strange and singular piece of mechanism!

Madrid has been noticed so repeatedly by various travellers of all ages, that I do not know that much further need be said in the way of topographical description. Assuming this to be the case, I shall, with the leave of the reader, cut the matter short, in order that I may the sooner get to my journey's end.

In speaking generally, therefore, of Madrid, it may be considered a handsome city; and I was, I own, agreeably surprised on entering it. The Prado and the adjoining quarter are the most striking, the principal streets being wide and spacious; La Calle d'Alcala, in particular, which is terminated by the Prado, and is probably equal to any thing of the kind in Europe. The Puerta del Sol is an irregular opening, or kind of plaza, whence five of the principal and handsomest streets diverge, namely, La Calle de las Carretas, De la Montera, d'Alcala, La Calle

Mayor, and La Carrera de San Geronimo. This open spot is ornamented with a handsome fountain, and is the resort of all the loungers of Madrid; and no place is better calculated to give the stranger an adequate idea of the national habits of idleness of the people.

The royal palace, a magnificent quadrangular structure, is one of the objects best deserving of notice, as is also the adjoining armoury. The numerous curious specimens of arms and warlike accoutrements of the old Spanish Moors will enable the traveller, who is acquainted with the capabilities of the existing race, to form a true estimate of the extraordinary difference between the former Moors of Spain and the natives of Morocco at the present day.

I shall pass over the many other sights of Madrid, and proceed at once to the inspection of the royal palace of the Escurial, the principal object which attracts the notice of the stranger on his reaching Madrid, and indeed with justice, not only in regard to its vast extent and splendour, but the situation of this extraordinary structure. It is distant about seven leagues from the capital, and which in winter time may be said to constitute a day's journey, on account of the lengthened ascent, particularly when the snow lies in any depth on the Guadarrama mountains, among which the Escurial is so singularly placed. Considerable difficulty is fre-

quently experienced in reaching it at this season of the year from the state of the roads. It may be easily supposed that its beauties would not be displayed to advantage when half buried in snow, as was now likely to be the case. As, however, it was not very probable that I should ever set eyes again upon Madrid, I was willing to be contented with even a winter view of this mountain-palace. Having accordingly hired a calesh, I started for the Escurial, in company with Mr. F., an English traveller, whom I found at Madrid, setting off in good time in the morning, and hoping thus to arrive sufficiently early to see it before dark.

The road, soon after leaving the capital, commences an ascent which is almost uninterrupted during the journey. The country is bleak and dreary until the rise of the Guadarrama range commences, when its features become more broken and interesting. We found the roads in such a state, and our progress was in consequence so slow, that before we had scarcely completed half the distance, it was getting late in the afternoon. The more anxious we were to make good our way, the more we seemed doomed to be disappointed: our vehicle was none of the lightest, the animal that was dragging it up the long toilsome ascent not the best in Spain, and, to use a sporting phrase, was very soon pretty nearly dead beat. Our light

was fast waning when we came to the region of snow, to our sorrow, as it was a token that a heavy fall had taken place in the Guadarrama range. By the time it grew dark it had increased to such a depth that we were scarcely able to advance at all; our vehicle made frequent halts, and we were eventually obliged to descend, and trudge the rest of the way, floundering along through the deep drifts, which had in many parts entirely blocked up the road. The night was very dark, the stormy drifts swept furiously over us, and there appeared every probability of our reposing in the snow for the night, when after some hours of persevering toil up a steep ascent encumbered with some feet of snow, we drew nigh, as our guide told us, to the Escurial; and another half hour brought us up to a street, formed by lofty houses, from whose roofs large masses of snow falling had more than once nearly overwhelmed us.

Not a light was visible, not a soul to be seen, and as we ploughed our way, up to our knees, looking out for a posada, while the night-blast whistled around us, it seemed as if the town was uninhabited. After some time we succeeded in finding out the desired spot; and having roused the inmates, who were about retiring to their beds, gained admittance, half frozen as we were. We were not long in taking possession of a large

upper chamber, got a blazing fire lighted, ordered supper, and congratulated ourselves, as well we might, upon having escaped our snow-couch on the Guadarrama mountains. I will not tire the reader with an account of how we feasted ourselves, how we half-roasted ourselves, or how, in spite of the cold—for the climate of the Escurial is none of the mildest in the winter time—we enjoyed our beds, made as warm as possible by all the blankets we could procure, with the addition of every garment we possessed.

Now then for some account of this far-famed palace, to the inspection of which we proceeded the following morning; having groped our way along a spacious subterranean passage communicating with the convent from the town, and which scandal asserts is convenient to the good fathers for bringing in other commodities besides provisions. On reaching the extremity of it we found ourselves in the principal cloister.

The convent St. Lorenzo, more generally known by the name of the Escurial which is properly applied to the town adjoining, was built by Philip II., in accordance to a vow for the victory obtained at St. Quintin, by his army over that of France. The day on which the battle was fought being the anniversary of St. Lorenzo, the Spanish martyr, the convent was dedicated to him; and 200 monks, of the order of St.

Jerome, with a prior, were placed in it. This immense structure, which was commenced in 1557, consists of a church, a monastery, and a palace, and is said to have been twenty-two years in completing, and to have cost six millions of gold. It is built in form of a vast quadrangle, containing 580 feet in front from east to west, and intended to represent the gridiron on which St. Lorenzo died a martyr. The building is for the most part of the Doric architecture, mixed with the other orders; and consists properly of four fronts, a tower being placed at each angle. The whole fabric is divided into four large squares, which may be supposed to represent the bars of the gridiron on which the holy man was fried. The principal front, which looks towards the mountains, has three gates, forming the chief entrance. The centre, or grand portal, is supported by eight Doric marble columns standing on each side on a base of 130 feet in length. This work, which is more than 50 feet in height, terminates with the Corinthian order, supporting four Ionic pillars of exquisite workmanship, with two pyramids on each side of them. Between these pillars are two rows of niches, in the centre of which, over the gate, are placed the arms of Spain, exquisitely cut in one stone, the workmanship of which is said to have cost 60,000 crowns. At the top of the second row of niches is the statue of St.

Lorenzo, in white marble, dressed in the habit of a deacon, with a book in his hand, and a large bronze gridiron on his right. This gate leads to the church, the convent, the college, and the royal suite of apartments, which of themselves constitute a tolerable sized-palace. In this front there are near fifty windows. After passing the principal gate, you enter a portico that extends from the college to the convent. Over it is the library, and in the front are three arches leading into the grand court, 230 in length and 126 in breadth. The eye is here struck with the magnificent view of the church of St. Lorenzo, flanked on each side by a lofty tower, and a dome in the centre. It has five grand arches, that form the entrance into the vestibules, and in the lower part of the portal are six Doric pillars supporting as many pedestals, on which are statues, with inscriptions under them, of David, Solomon, Josias, Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, and Manasses, with crowns of bronze on their heads and sceptres in their hands.

THE CHURCH.

The length of the church is 364 feet, and 230 in breadth; its whole height, from the pavement to the cross on the top of the cupola, being 330 feet. It has six aisles, paved with fine marble, two of which form a cross, the other four making it into a square; having besides

24 arches, and fifty large windows, and forty altars in their peculiar chapels; over these are galleries, with brass balustrades and silk curtains, extending quite round.

The cupola is encompassed by two galleries, and crowned with a lantern that has eight windows, divided by pilasters, gradually diminishing to the top, where there is another small dome in the crown of the lantern; and over this is a fluted stone obelisk, on the top of which is a globe of brass gilt surmounted by a cross and vane.

THE CHAPEL.

The next thing to be seen is the chapel, which is magnificent in the extreme, being divided from the body of the church by a curiously wrought railing of brass gilt. The ascent to it is by twelve steps of red jasper, more than fifty feet in length. The pavement of this chapel, which is 100 feet in height, consists of mosaic work of jasper and marble beautifully arranged in compartments.

The grand altar is adorned with all the orders of architecture, except the Tuscan; the first being the Doric, with six pillars; the second, the Ionic; the third, the Corinthian; and the fourth, the composite, with two pillars supporting the roof and arches above. The bases and capitals,

with those of all the other columns and pilasters behind them, are of brass gilt, the shafts of fine jasper, beautifully polished and fluted.

The niches at the two extremes contain the statues of four doctors of the church in brass gilt, which have a fine effect, the niches being of green jasper. In the spaces on each side of the tabernacle are two pieces of painting. The second range consists of six columns of the Ionic order, inlaid with green jasper in the compartments; in the extreme intercolumniations are niches also of green jasper, containing the statues of the four evangelists, of the same material and beauty with the former. The third range consists only of four columns of the Corinthian order, the extremes of the lower rank being supplied by two pyramids of green jasper, between which are fine brass statues of St. James, the patron of Spain, and St. Andrew, much larger than life.

The two columns of the composite order support the frontispiece, which terminates in the principal arch of the chapel; the compartment is green jasper, in which is our Saviour on the cross, with the statues of the Virgin Mary and St. John standing on the sides, and those of St. Peter and St. Paul on the extreme pedestals; the statues are of brass gilt, thirteen feet in height. The whole height, from the pedestal

of the Doric order to the centre of the grand arch, is 93 feet and the breadth fifty.

The tabernacle stands on a pedestal of jasper within an arched portal, whose pilasters are of red and green jasper; the form being globular, and the order Corinthian. The first pedestal is of jasper finely inlaid. It supports eight jasper columns of a deep red veined with white. In the intercolumniations are four niches, with as many statues of apostles. Over the cornice is another base, with eight pedestals, supporting the like number of statues, in gilt brass. It also sustains the cupola, which is divided into four compartments, inlaid with jasper. Above is a small lantern, crowned with another cupola; and over all is an image of our Saviour, of the same metal as those of the apostles.

The custodia, or box where the sacrament is kept, is of a round figure, made of various stones; its height sixteen feet, and its diameter seven and a half, supported by eight columns, which imitate the rainbow in their various colours. The workmanship of this is said to have cost 80,000 ducats. Over the custodia are seen the statues of the twelve apostles, and at the top the resurrection of our Saviour. On the right hand of the altar are four statues in brass, kneeling, of the Emperor Charles V., his daughter, and two of his sisters. On the other side are placed the arms of Spain, with five statues; one of King

Philip II., Queen Anne, his wife, his son Charles, and two of his former wives.

THE CONVENT.

On the right side, facing the south, is the convent, which consists of five magnificent cloisters, the principal of which extends 210 feet from north to south, and 207 from east to west. The grand staircase is forty feet in breadth, the steps of beautiful stone, each of one piece, and the balustrade of exquisite workmanship. The arcade above is adorned with a painting exhibiting the founder's motive for erecting this edifice; and the whole structure is adorned with the works of the most celebrated Spanish and Italian masters.

THE CHOIR

is in the middle of the aisle, fronting the chapel, 96 feet in length, and 56 in breadth; its height 48; the pavement of the same marble as the rest of the church; and the walls painted with the martyrdom of St. Lawrence and St. Jerome. It is illuminated by a crystal branch of 28 lights, presented by King Charles II.; and there are two orders of seats, curiously wrought in fine wood. On each side is an organ with cross galleries, gilt, and in the church are six more, one of silver, the gift of Charles V.

THE SACRISTY

is 108 feet in length, and thirty in breadth; the pavement of marble, of various colours, and the ceilings and walls painted with the best subjects of sacred history, by the hands of the great masters.

Near it you descend to the Pantheon, by about thirty steps of marble, through a passage of jasper and beautifully variegated marbles, until you find yourself in an octagonal chamber of considerable height directly under the high altar. This is the Pantheon, or mausoleum where the remains of the sovereigns of Spain repose, and is unquestionably the most striking part of the Escurial. Indeed, it may be affirmed that there is nothing of the kind so remarkable and magnificent in the world, whether in regard to the splendour of the materials of which it is composed, the beauty of their workmanship, the taste which pervades the whole, and the impression produced on the mind of the stranger. The entrance to the mausoleum is in particular striking. Over one of the gates, which are of brass gilt, the following inscription, in golden letters, appears on fine black marble:

D. O. M.

Locus sacer mortalitatis exuviis
Catholicorum regum
A Restauratore vitæ, cujus aræ max.

Austriaca adhuc pietate subjacent,
Optatam diem expectantium.
Quam post suam sedem sibi et suis
Corolus Cæsarum Max. in votis habuit,
Philippus IIdus, regum prudentissimus, elegit,
Philippus IIItius vere pius inchoavit,
Philippus IVtus,
Clementia, constantia, religione magn. auxit,
Ornavit, absolvit; M.D.C.LIV.

The arms of Spain, of exquisite workmanship, are here placed between two statues of brass. The mausoleum itself, the roof of which is supported by jasper pillars, is inlaid with jasper and marble, highly polished, and presenting an appearance singularly beautiful and splendid. Around it, in niches, are seen the sarcophagi of fine polished gray marble in which the royal bodies are deposited. Here are interred the remains of Charles V., Philip II., Philip III., Philip IV., with such of their queens as brought them male issue; those who failed in the performance of this necessary duty not being deemed worthy of admittance into this little aristocratic resting place-are deposited in another sepulchre allotted for the other branches of the royal family.

The above notice, although it may not embrace every part of this immense structure, will, nevertheless, be sufficient to give a general idea of it. I might here dilate upon the treasures of a different nature than the foregoing; namely,

the holy relics of the Escurial, of which the following catalogue is presented for the amusement of the reader:—seven bodies of saints, how preserved does not appear; 107 heads of ditto; 170 legs and arms, ditto; 346 veins, nerves, and sinews, ditto; besides 1400 little holy morçeaux, as hair, fingers, thumbs, toe-nails, eyelashes, ears, teeth, ribs, &c.

These were formerly shown to the curious stranger, and, I take it for granted, still remain *in statu quo*, having, it is to be hoped, providentially escaped the pillage of the war. The French troops—who were particularly noted, during the Peninsular campaign, for the forbearance and respect paid by them to the property of the church—scrupulously abstained from laying even a finger upon the above inestimable objects; and although it is said they became somewhat too deeply enamoured of some of the more tangible and convertible treasures, yet their pious veneration and forbearance induced them to withstand the temptation of becoming the possessors of such precious relics.

Notwithstanding the Escurial may lay some claim to antiquity, the character of its architecture and the whiteness of the stone of which it is built give it a far more modern appearance than it is entitled to, from the length of time it has been erected. The snow,

blended with the building, detracted now considerably from this look; but in the summer-season its dazzling whiteness must form a strange contrast to the dark, gloomy sides of the surrounding mountains.

Built, as it is, in the bosom of the Guadarrama chain, the situation of the Escurial is certainly fine; the effect, however, is singular and unsatisfactory. When the stranger views the wild landscape which encircles it, he cannot help being strangely surprised to behold so superb a Doric structure in the midst of a desert, and would have been better pleased to have beheld a Gothic monastery than an edifice which harmonizes as little with the surrounding scenery as the palace of Charles V., at Granada, does with the Alhambra. The views on all sides are beautiful and striking, and one cannot conceive a more delightful spot for the court to retire to and enjoy the cool mountain breezes, during the months of June, July, and August, when Madrid is panting under a burning sun.

Philip II., the founder of the Escurial, was son of the Emperor Charles V. and of Isabella of Portugal, and was born at Valladolid, in 1527. In manner and demeanour he was haughty, reserved, and severe; of an imperious temper, although easy of access to his subjects; while his reign evinced that he possessed no incon-

siderable penetration and talents in the art of government. Educated under ecclesiastics distinguished for their bigotry, he displayed early symptoms of prudence, sagacity, and application; while his mind, naturally serious, thoughtful, and of a gloomy mould, gave a ready admittance to the sentiments of that illiberal superstition which worked so strongly upon him and influenced his future life. A bigoted zealot in the cause of religion, he was thereby prompted to commit the greatest cruelties and atrocities for its advancement, uncontrolled by the slightest feeling of humanity; and this, connected with his exorbitant ambition, carried the sanguinary spirit of that religion, during his reign, to the greatest height.

Philip, who from his early youth had declared his resolution to dedicate his life to the defence of the catholic faith and the extirpation of heresy, kept his word, by his unrelenting persecution both of protestants and the Moriscoes; and the Inquisition, which had been introduced by Ferdinand and Isabella, with the view of preventing the relapse of the Moors to their ancient faith, flourished during his reign in full vigour and atrocity. Philip was undoubtedly the most powerful monarch of his age; and his marriage with Mary, Queen of England, his subsequent designs upon Elizabeth, and the celebrated expedition fitted out for the conquest of this

country, in exposing the deep and ambitious nature of his views, have connected him with an interesting period of English history. This monarch, after a life of activity and continual warfare, died at the Escurial the 13th of September, 1598, in the forty-third year of his reign, at an advanced age, being in his seventy-second year.

The elevation of Madrid itself, according to the illustrious traveller Humboldt, is as great as that of Inspruck, in the Tyrol, and exceeds that of any other capital in Europe. The greater height at which the Escurial stands makes it, therefore, it may be supposed, not the warmest place in the world in winter-time. The severity, indeed, of the weather was such that we were glad to abridge our shivering visit; and having finished our inspection of the edifice, we set off, on our return to Madrid, at a much quicker pace than on leaving it, and got back in better time to the city, although not before it was dark.

The climate of Castile is certainly very different from that of Andalusia: when journeying recently through the latter, I was at times almost parched with heat, although the winter had set in; and now I was perishing with cold in my comfortless quarters at the French hotel, where I had been induced, from the name entirely, to take up my abode on my arrival. I found my accommodations, how-

ever, so indifferent, and, in point of comfort, bearing so great a resemblance to the Spanish posada, which I have had occasion to mention more than once in the foregoing pages, that I resolved to see if I could not better myself, as the phrase is; and, setting out therefore one morning, I soon fixed upon the Fontana d'Oro, close to the Puerta del Sol, and established myself in far more comfortable apartments. The Golden Fountain, for so I must translate it, is one of the principal hotels in Madrid; possessing also a café, which is well known to every idle politician and newsmonger in the capital, the number of whom is not small. The saloon belonging to the latter, in point of dimensions, is, perhaps, equal to any thing of the kind in Europe, and is capable of containing some hundred loungers, who at leisure hours, which in Spain are not very limited, are to be seen busily engaged in doing nothing, that is to say, in drinking lemonade, smoking cigars, and dabbling in politics.

I had been too long absent from England to consider Madrid, on the present occasion, any thing more than a resting-place between Gibraltar and Paris; and having seen, I believe, every thing to be seen, I procured a fresh passport, got my saddle-bags ready, and proceeded, one fine morning, from my quarters at the Fontana d'Oro to the office from whence the

Bayonne diligence was about to start, at ten o'clock. The yard was crowded with passengers, among whom were some ladies, who were going to favour us with their company; and having taken possession of a snug corner in front, after the usual noise and delay, out at last we sallied at full speed, not without some danger of being overturned in getting clear of the office yard. The machine I was now in appeared quite as clumsy and as ponderous as the one I had travelled in from Cordova; it was, however, easy to perceive it was by no means so well conducted and appointed. The eight animals that were dragging us along were wretched-looking beasts, the harness as strong as packthread, and the vehicle so crazy, that, as we rattled over the broken pavement in the suburbs, I expected nothing less than the separation of the fore-part of our machine from the body, and that, disunited in this early stage of our career from my fair companions, who were behind me, I should have to proceed without them in the coupé. No such mishap, however, befel us; and we got clear of Madrid without accident, or having experienced any other sensation than that attendant upon the dislocation of most of our bones.

The country was quite as uninteresting in its appearance as that I had so recently passed through between the Sierra Morena and Madrid,

and parched and naked in its aspect. I contented myself with peeping out occasionally; and then, disappointed at the forbidding landscape around me, and already tired to death by the cruel shaking we had experienced, I composed myself to sleep, and to dream, if I could, of Andalusia. I shall carry my reader, at once, to Buitrago, where the diligence halts the first night. We had travelled with considerable expedition, and arrived, in consequence, in good time. We were here near the Guadarrama mountains, and as the mayoral, or conductor, expected the passage would be difficult across this range, from the state of the snow, it was determined that we should not set out before morning twilight. In consequence, to my great comfort, we not only had time sufficient to partake of a tolerably good supper and smoke our cigars, but to enjoy the blessing of some hours' repose. The mayoral roused the whole party when day was near dawning. I cannot say that we accepted his invitation to get up with any great alacrity; for we were all snug and comfortably circumstanced, and the morning was cold and dreary. In half an hour's time, however, we were all packed again in our ponderous vehicle, and once more in motion, after having had just time sufficient to swallow a cup of hot coffee which had been prepared for the party.

As we approached the Guadarrama mountains we found the ascent difficult and laborious in the extreme, on account both of the steepness of the road and the snow, which in some parts had accumulated to such a depth as to make it a matter of the greatest difficulty to proceed. We approached Samosierra, situated at top of a long and steep ascent, slowly and with infinite toil, dragging our unwieldy bulk along like a huge snail crawling over a white sheet. Within half a mile of the village the snow had drifted to such a depth that our poor animals were unable to pull us up any further, and we came fairly to a stand-still, with little prospect of our being again in motion; for the machine was fast as a rock. Upon this disaster we all tumbled out, put our shoulders to the wheel, and having succeeded, with the aid of the animals, in moving it a few yards in advance, it again sank into a deeper drift, and we were obliged to give it up. Nothing remained now to be done but to get additional help in men and horses; and, assistance having been sent from the village, we at last succeeded in getting the diligence out, though not without considerable labour; and having reached the post-house, we procured fresh horses, and again proceeded on our journey.

The little village of Samosierra, as we passed

slowly through it, presented a most dreary and desolate object, being buried in snow, and exposed, from its high bleak situation, to the cutting blast of the mountains. We were not sorry when the snow began to disappear, and we found ourselves clear of the mountains and enjoying a tolerably comfortable breakfast, towards noon, at the post-house of Fresnillo, where we changed horses.

The chain of the Guadarrama is covered with snow, in general, two-thirds of the year; and on that account, situate in the latitude it is, its elevation may be supposed to be, as it is, considerable. From its summits an extensive view is obtained of the plains of Castile.

Old Castile, which we had now entered, is bounded, to the north, by Asturia and Biscay; to the east, by Navarre; to the west, by Leon; while to the south it joins New Castile, from which it is separated by the Guadarrama range, which we had just crossed; its principal rivers being the Douro and Ebro. Both the Castiles are table lands; and, according to Humboldt, unequalled in Europe for elevation and extent.

After an hour's rest we again proceeded through a country so little interesting from its features, that I shall make no apology for conveying myself and party at once to Lerma, which we reached about six o'clock. This was

to be our night quarters, or partly so, as the mayoral intended proceeding after a halt of six or seven hours; and we accordingly ordered supper, with a determination to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. Before we sit down, I shall just give the reader a slight sketch of the little coterie which formed our present society within the diligence, and which consisted of two Englishmen besides myself, two Frenchmen, and two Spanish donnas. Of the first, one belonged to a mercantile house in Valencia, and was on his way to England, as was also his companion, a young Madrid merchant; the Frenchmen were proceeding to Paris, and the two ladies to the Spanish provinces. Our fair companions, for one was a blonde with large blue eyes, and the countenance of the other was unmarked with the general national tint of the country, were plump and well looking; of a certain, or, to speak more advisedly, of an uncertain age, ranking, in short, probably under the head of fat, fair, and forty.

A few hours' jolting and rubbing against one another in a public conveyance produces even in England a singular closeness of acquaintance and familiarity in a short time, particularly where there are females in the case. Thus it was in our instance; and by the time we made our first halt all parties were perfectly well acquainted.

Our buxom companions, who were in excellent spirits, had been, it appeared, to Madrid on business which induces numbers to repair to the capital, to do what their husbands could not do, namely, to obtain certain favours from the minister, which are granted with greater facility to the female than to the male sex. This is the general system in Spain, and petticoat influence has in consequence by far the most preponderating weight in affairs. Does a person wish to obtain any situation, post, or office, to be appointed to a certain command, or to effect, in short, any object essential to his interest, and of which the government has the disposal, his rib, as a far abler negotiator than himself, is despatched to Madrid, and, repairing every day to the minister's levees, brings into play her different points of character, and the numberless little tricks which her sex in general, and the Spanish ladies in particular, know so well how to exhibit to the best advantage.

A Spanish minister's levee is thus crowded with fair applicants, who bring into play the whole of the artillery with which nature may have supplied them, against the crafty courtier, who is not a little puzzled often, from their numbers, how to satisfy their cravings. Those who happen to be blessed with any superior share of personal charms and attractions, accom-

panied with proportionate address, are first attended to, and seldom have to wait long, or fail in the object of their mission; while others, who are not so fortunate, counterbalance any defect of this nature in the most effectual manner possible, by means of sundry bags well stored with good hard dollars, which they lay at the feet of his excellency, who generally deigns to look upon them in consequence with a gracious and benevolent eye. In the end they are all sent trotting back to their spouses in the country tolerably content, and not dissatisfied, at least, with the gaieties of the capital, which their little trip has thus enabled them to indulge in.

Our two fellow travellers had been on a similar errand, and if credit could be given to their countenances, they had had no reason to be displeased with their visit to Madrid.

One of them, the Condessa de C., had been despatched thither in order to entreat the favour of the minister in behalf of her husband, who had, for some reason or other, fallen into disgrace, and been ordered to retire into a distant province; while her companion, the Señora ——, had been using her influence for the purpose of obtaining an exchange of command for her husband, who was stationed in one of the frontier fortresses, and wished to get nearer Madrid.

Supper-time now arrived, and we were all as

merry as could be, our fair companions anticipating, doubtless, the pleasure of seeing their husbands again, while, on our sides, we already looked forward to the delight with which we should first get a glimpse of the shores of Old England. I might here dilate, at the conclusion of our meal, on an incident or two which took place, in order to prove, were it worth the while, how much better travellers the continental ladies are than our own fair countrywomen—how well they accommodate themselves to the little emergencies of the moment—and how admirably they can divest themselves of those squeamish notions of delicacy which, however becoming they may be, are undoubtedly not the most convenient on the road.

It was soon bed-time; when, lo! a circumstance took place, interesting enough; but which, nevertheless, would furnish ample food for an English scandal table.

Those who are acquainted with the interior arrangement of a Spanish posada are sensible that it differs widely from an English inn; no nice single bed-rooms, or even double ones: but, being introduced into a long comfortless kind of chamber, with a score of straw beds in it, almost touching each other, you are littered down pretty much in the same way as your beasts are in the adjoining stable. Tired as the party were with the day's journey, we had not been

very particular in our inquiries respecting the arrangement of the beds; and, on our proceeding to our couches, we found out that there were but two bed-rooms, if by this term they could be dignified, one of which contained twelve and the other four beds. It would not have done to put the ladies into the former; and although they were kind enough to say it made not the least difference to them, yet it would have looked so odd. There was nothing to be done, therefore, but for them to sleep in the four-bedded room. But now came the most difficult part—to settle who of the gentlemen of the party were to occupy the other two beds; or, in short, who were to be, not the bed-fellows, but the bed-neighbours, of the two ladies.

The reader may, probably, anticipate our going to loggerheads, and which, perhaps, had we been Spaniards, we might have done. What the reason could be, however, I do not know, but I fear we were rather lukewarm on the subject. It could not have been for want of duly appreciating the charms of our fair *compagnons de voyage;* and I must, therefore, set it down to fatigue (a good excuse for a traveller), and a conviction that it would have been difficult to have paid them those attentions which the gallantry of the country must have claimed for them in the situation they were in.

It was necessary, however, to settle this interesting affair. And how do you think it was done? By a very simple and expeditious way, namely, by drawing straws from our beds; an old-fashioned and somewhat laconic method of determining so weighty a business, but, for aught I know, quite as efficacious and *à propos* as any other. To bring the matter to a conclusion at once, straws were accordingly produced. The straws were drawn; but who got the longest or the shortest, and whether the longest or the shortest was to decide the point in question, is of little moment: all that I need say is, that neither fell to my lot.

It was quite dark when we were called as usual to pursue our journey; and after a little malicious inquiry of the inmates of the four-bedded room whether they had reposed agreeably, we took our places in the diligence and proceeded. Morn was hardly beginning to peep, when the loud rumbling of our vehicle over a causeway roused us from a comfortable nap, and we found we were just entering a town. We had just arrived at Burgos, about seven leagues from our night's quarters, and having reached the post-house, which was situated in the centre of a spacious plaza, we got out for the purpose of breakfasting, as the diligence was to remain about half an hour. At this early hour every thing was as still as a mouse, and the only

living being we could find was in the kitchen, where a poor scullion wench was rubbing her eyes on being roused, by the noise our party made, from a bench, which had served as her night's couch. By dint of exertion a fire was made; and some hot coffee and the warmth of a cheerful blaze not a little improved the spirits of all. As the diligence was not quite ready, I hastily directed my steps towards the cathedral, which was at a short distance, and, luckily, found the doors just opened, in preparation for the first prayers. It was yet scarcely light, and the gray tint of dawn, faintly glimmering along the fretted aisles, gave an imperfect view of the interior of this venerable edifice.

Burgos, the capital of Old Castile, is situated on the declivity of a steep hill, and surmounted by a very strong castle, which defends the town. The siege of it, and its subsequent raising, in 1812, during the Peninsular war, are events that will long be remembered, both by the inhabitants and the British troops, whose loss on this occasion was very great, particularly in officers. In ancient times Burgos was the residence of the kings of Castile. The country, to Breviesca, is dreary in the extreme; even as far as Miranda de Ebro there is little to interest the eye of the traveller. From thence, however, it gradually improves in its features to the Pyrenees, becoming bolder and more

varied; while the appearance of wood forms an agreeable contrast to the parched and naked plains which present themselves, with but little interruption, all the way from the Sierra Morena. Miranda de Ebro is the last town in Old Castile, and on the banks of the river Ebro: we here changed horses. On leaving it we entered the province of Alava. This is one of the three "Provincias Vascongadas;" namely, Biscay, Guipuzcoa, and Alava, and which are better known by the more general division of Vizcaya, or Biscay.

The country became now more mountainous and striking in its aspect as we proceeded. We arrived at La Puebla, the last post to Vitoria, in the afternoon. It was here that the French made a stand previous to the battle of Vitoria, and some sharp fighting ensued. It was dusk when we passed by the scene of this celebrated engagement, and could merely discover the general features of the country. We were not long in reaching Vitoria; and our horses having with some difficulty surmounted the steep ascent at the entrance of the town, we found ourselves safely lodged in the posada where the mayoral informed us we were to remain until morning. This was no bad news, and was received with marks of satisfaction from all sides, for we were both hungry and tired after a very long day's journey.

The accommodations for the night were not more extended than they had previously been. Such as they were, however, our fair travelling companions bore them with much good-humour, and I did not hear a murmur from their lips. Vitoria, the capital of the province of Alava, is rather a considerable town; the streets are wide and spacious, and the Plaza Mayor is a large handsome square ornamented by piazzas. We continued our journey early in the morning. We were now at no great distance from the fortress of Pampluna, at this period in the possession of the French troops, but who, we were informed at Vitoria, were preparing to evacuate it. Salinas, the second post from Vitoria, and distant from it four leagues, is so called from its salt springs. From thence to Mondragon, where we also changed, is a distance of two leagues and a half, the descent being rapid the greater part of the way.

At Vergara we set foot in the province of Guipuzcoa, leaving that of Alava. Tolosa is the capital of the former; and on reaching it we made a halt, for about an hour, to get some refreshment and rest ourselves. Tolosa was attacked by the gallant veteran Sir Thomas Graham, with the left wing of the British army, at the commencement of July, 1813, and who, having driven the enemy from their positions, advanced upon the Bidassoa. We had now lost

the company of both the fair ladies who had accompanied us from Madrid; the one having quitted us to proceed to a neighbouring garrison, where her husband held a command, while the buxom condessa was left behind at an insignificant little town where we had stopped to change horses.

On approaching the Pyrenees the features of the country became bold and interesting. As we slowly dragged up the steep declivities of the mountain, the Biscayan peasants of both sexes were laboriously employed in cultivating every spot of ground that was possible. I did not observe any ploughs in use in the part of the country where we now were, the nature of which was probably too hilly to admit of their use. The mode of cultivation appeared to be entirely by means of a kind of pronged instrument, which was struck into the ground simultaneously, time being observed in the operation.

The Biscayans are a hardy industrious race, and resemble little the Spaniards in general. The young women, whom I observed labouring as actively as the men, appeared to me remarkably robust, but at the same time very handsome; their complexion by no means dark, but finely mixed with red and white.

The approach of darkness soon concealed the face of the country; and as the diligence was to

travel all night in order to reach the frontiers the following morning, we composed ourselves to sleep as well as the rugged nature of the country would admit; and at dawn of day, peeping out from our corners in the vehicle, we found ourselves completely hemmed in by the rugged mountains of the Pyrenees. The chain of the Lower Pyrenees, over which the great road to Madrid is cut, struck me as being far inferior both in elevation and fine scenery to the Andalusian mountains. The character of the scenery of the Higher Pyrenees, from the distant views I subsequently obtained of this elevated chain, must doubtless be of a superior order.

The road had for some time been winding at no great distance from the coast, and we were now fast approaching the frontiers of France. It was near eight o'clock when, having with considerable labour gained the top of the last part of the chain of the Pyrenees, a magnificent view burst upon us of the Bay of Biscay; the valley of the Bidassoa, with the rich plains of France, stretching before us, and the dark encircling tops of the more distant and elevated ranges of the Pyrenees; while the town of Irun, the place of our destination, lay below us. It was not long before we reached it, and were not sorry when we found ourselves, after our long and fatiguing journey, lodged within the

posada of the place, on the morning of the fifth day from our leaving Madrid.

Irun is an inconsiderable town, but nevertheless, as the frontier town of Spain, and connected with so many recollections of Peninsular warfare, it is not undeserving the attention of the traveller.

At the expiration of a couple of hours, we had concluded our breakfast, arranged our further progress by a French diligence, which had been awaiting our arrival, to convey us across the frontiers to Bayonne, and having taken leave of our old acquaintance, the Madrid diligence, and its driver, the mayoral, we descended towards the Bidassoa. The passage of this river was effected by the allied army, on the 7th of October, 1813, with the greatest gallantry, in spite of the enemy, who were afterwards driven from the strong position they had occupied on the heights, and compelled to retreat to St. Jean de Luz.

We were now about to bid adieu to Spain, and having crossed the Bidassoa, found ourselves safe and sound, after the rough treatment we had experienced, in *la belle France.*

At the barrier on the French side we were stopped, our passports and effects slightly examined, and we were then suffered to proceed on our journey towards Bayonne.

The country above the Bidassoa is high and

open; the distant views of the Bay of Biscay and the range of the Pyrenees finely diversifying the landscape, when the traveller stops to retrace his steps. It was yet early in the afternoon, when, having passed the rive Nivelle, at St. Jean de Luz, the head quarters of the British army in 1813, we reached Bayonne, and I was not a little rejoiced to find myself in France. Bayonne a good deal resembles a Spanish town, and the inhabitants appeared to me also very Spanish, which is not singular, when its vicinity to the frontier is considered. On this account, it is at all times a ready place of refuge for Spaniards of every class, forced from their own country by those causes which for many years past have sent into exile such numbers of this unfortunate race. A personage who has made himself sufficiently conspicuous, but who is, I believe, now dead, was now residing here as a refugee—the Marquis de Chaves, and he was pointed out to me on horseback as I was taking a survey of the town. Bayonne is situated at the conflux of the Nive and Adour, not far from the sea, and will be long recollected in the annals of modern warfare, from the murderous sortie made from it at the conclusion of the Peninsular war, in which the gallant Sir John Hope was wounded and taken prisoner.

I left Bayonne early the following morning

to pursue my road to Bourdeaux, the distance about 150 miles. We had not proceeded very far, when we entered the wild and extensive district so well known by the appellation of the "Landes," and which the author of "Highways and By-ways" has made the scene of one of his interesting and highly-wrought tales. To use his own words, "The Landes stretch from the Gironde to the Adour between north and south, are washed by the Bay of Biscay on the west, and lose themselves to the eastward by insensibly mingling with the fertile plains of Aire and Villeneuve de Marson. Extensive pine woods cover this ocean of sands. Here and there a hut or a hamlet forms the centre of a patch of green, on which troops of ragged sheep or goats are seen to browse; while the unmeaning look of the being who attends them marks his mental affinity to the flock, as his sheep-skin mantle gives him an external similitude."

The district of the Landes is peopled chiefly by shepherds, who, on account of the flatness of the country, make use of high stilts to keep a better watch over their flocks, and are to be seen stalking across these desert wastes like giants, to the amazement of the traveller when he views them at a distance.

Dreary as this country may seem, it is not without its peculiar interest, and the dark pine

woods through which the stranger slowly ploughs his sandy track, and the air of deep silence and solitude which reigns around, are features by no means unattractive. Occasionally an opening presents to the eye an immense stretch of country, covered with stunted shrubs, level as the plains of La Mancha, while the lofty peaks of the High Pyrenees are discerned at an immense distance raising their craggy necks of snow high aloft.

The country on approaching Bourdeaux assumes a very different appearance from that through which we had been journeying the previous day; the whole face of it is highly cultivated, and is spotted for miles with innumerable white buildings attached to the different vineyards. It was evident that we were now passing over a soil favoured both by nature and the industry of man. How striking does the contrast appear to the stranger who emerges from Spain, and passes at once to Bourdeaux! In the one country, nothing but idleness, torpidity, and poverty; in the other, the signs of activity, enterprise, and industry are apparent at every step one advances, and mark the difference in the habits of the two nations.

Bourdeaux, the metropolis of the south of France, and the second city in the kingdom, is as magnificent a commercial town as any in Eu-

rope, and the traveller will do well to make a short stay here. The streets are handsome and spacious; the public buildings striking; and the *tout ensemble* of the city denotes the wealth and liberal character of her merchants.

The theatre is a most splendid edifice, on an immense scale, and superior to any thing of the kind I have ever seen. The Garonne, which struck me as considerably wider than the Thames at London, and the new bridge over it, are however the most striking features of Bourdeaux: the latter is certainly very fine, and deserves to be ranked next to Waterloo bridge, to which indeed it bears a resemblance. It was the period of the great annual fair, which lasts a considerable time, and the quays were lined with rows of temporary booths, and the streets crowded with gay promenaders, enjoying the amusement of the animated scene; to the interest of which the picturesque costume of the crowds of pretty grisettes of Bourdeaux greatly contributed.

I remained two or three days at Bourdeaux; and having then secured a place in the diligence, proceeded on my journey to Paris. It seemed as if my travels were to terminate in the same odd way in which they had commenced; for on my repairing to the office where the vehicle and horses stood ready for our departure, I found that the body of the diligence

was completely filled with nuns, who were going to Poictiers for the purpose of establishing themselves in a convent at that town. I must confess I felt some little curiosity, in common with the bystanders who were collected around, to discern the physiognomy of my travelling companions, who were pretty well wrapped up to avoid the unhallowed gaze of man.

Youth and beauty are so generally associated with the name of a nun that one is apt almost to forget that the sisterhood is affected with old age and ancient looks as well as other living beings; and I own that the interest I already began to take in the recluses who were to be my companions was not a little blunted when I at length discovered that they were ladies quite old enough to retire, with comfort and advantage to themselves, from the bustling scenes of life.

I shall now outstrip the diligence, and carry my reader to Paris, in a much shorter time than the crazy and ill-appointed machine in which I was now seated, and which was in every respect far inferior to the conveyances of the same kind I had met with in Spain. The state of the roads in France, which from the time of Napoleon have been utterly neglected, is now so shamefully bad that travelling is even more dangerous and fatiguing than in Spain; and it would be tedious were I to narrate the several escapes we had in our journey, arising either

from the carelessness of the driver, the condition of the harness and vehicle, or that of the roads.

Three leagues from Bourdeaux we reached the Dordogne, and having crossed it in a ferry worked by horses, we continued our journey. As I need not describe very particularly the features of the country I was now in, I shall proceed at once to Barbecieux; a place famed for pies, or, to speak more genteelly, pâtés de Barbecieux. One of these dainties I purchased at the post-house where we changed horses, and its goodness fully confirmed the character which the conducteur had given me of this species of manufacture. Passing through Angoulême, where we merely changed horses, we reached Poictiers, a gloomy irregular-built town, interesting chiefly from the recollection of the celebrated battle fought, in 1356, in its vicinity. After having travelled all night, and the weather being very cold, the appearance of a well-dressed and most plentiful dejeuner à la fourchette, sent up smoking hot, was a most refreshing sight, and we forgot our miseries. Having rested an hour, we continued our journey, leaving behind the religious party, whom I had scarcely got a glimpse of since leaving Bourdeaux, having been seated in the coupé, or forepart of the diligence.

We reached Tours, a handsome town, and

much resorted to by English, in the afternoon, and, having dined, again proceeded. The road from thence winds above the high precipitous banks of the Loire; and when it grew dark, a sleepy driver, rotten cords for harness, and unmanageable horses, all three of which we were blessed with, were enough to make any traveller nervous, and it was some time before I could get to sleep. We reached Orleans the following morning, and it was just dark when we entered Paris; and half an hour afterwards I found myself, to my comfort, lodged within the walls of the hotel Meurice. Having brought the reader to Paris, I shall not trouble him with an account of what I did or what I saw during the few days I remained in the gay metropolis of France. It will, I dare say, be sufficient to add, that after being subjected to the purgatory of two days' and a night's travelling along a most infamous road, I reached Calais in the evening safe and sound, after my long journey from Gibraltar, and, crossing the straits the following morning, got sight once more of the chalky cliffs of Old England.

NOTES.

NOTES.

EXTRACTS RELATING TO MOROCCO, FROM AN OLD SPANISH WORK BY DON JOSEPH SAGARRA.

Justice.

THE Koran, bad as it is as a code of laws, is made infinitely worse by the mode in which justice is administered, for if the judge be bribed, which is usually the case, and that, too, by both sides, in order that he may be even-handed, the Koran is any thing but followed: he that bribes highest is, generally speaking, pretty sure to gain his cause. The cady, or chief judge of each town, decides all cases of common law, there being an appeal to the sultan, whose decision is final, in giving which he is assisted by the high talibs who form his court at Fez or Morocco. Cases of murder, robbery, assaults, &c. are decided by the governor of the town or province. The judge is only employed to inflict trifling punishments, as from ten to one hundred strokes of the bastinado, whereas the governor is authorized by the sultan to go to any extent, and to cut off the hands and, in some cases, the heads of offenders; it is, however, usually left to the sultan to decide in extreme cases. The governor

is obliged to be ready at all times to administer justice, which he does in a very simple and summary manner. The plaintiff, defendant, and witnesses being placed on their knees, plead their respective cases, and the greater number of witnesses produced by each side carries the day, that is to say, supposing the witnesses on both sides are equally bribed, for on this much depends, as also upon what is received by the judge; upon the latter mainly hangs the case, and the party who can produce the greater number of witnesses in his favour and the judge to boot, by means of that charm which hoodwinks even justice itself, is sure of gaining the day. Should two persons have a dispute, one of them may say, "I'll take you before the governor;" but if the other side says, "No, I'll appeal to the law of the Prophet," meaning, that he wishes to go before the cady, the case must be sent before him, and he is bound to hear it, although, generally speaking, it is afterwards referred to the governor. In these cases, the Moors are generally of opinion that the governor is the best, as he can decide instantly, according to the merits of the case; whereas, if brought before the cady, certain forms must be gone through and drawn up by regular talibs, and thus cases requiring summary punishment would be protracted so as to occasion great inconvenience.

Caravans

The present sultan has not yet despatched a grand caravan to Mecca, but some years ago, in Muley Soliman's time, caravans used to assemble at Fez, the mustering-point of the empire, consisting of upwards

of twenty thousand persons, headed by a chief appointed by the sultan himself, and vested with the same despotic power as himself, even to cutting off heads, a power necessary to keep in order such a wild multitude on so long and dangerous an expedition. Hadji Talib Benzeleul, of Fez, on two occasions held the office of chief on these occasions, a title of the greatest honour and held in the highest estimation in Morocco. The goods of those who die on the road, either from sickness or accidental circumstances, are taken possession of by the chief of the caravan on account of the relations. Sometimes the sultan gives this chief a sum of one or two hundred thousand dollars to trade with on the road, as a pilgrimage to Mecca is an expedition of commerce as well as religion, the profits of which often pay the whole expenses of the journey and bring in a considerable gain besides. From Fez, various articles of commerce are taken to Algiers and Tunis, and being exchanged there for other commodities, the latter in like manner are carried on and trafficked with, by which means considerable gains are made. Should the chief gain, the original sum lent by the sultan is always returned to him; but should there happen to be a loss, which is occasionally the case, it is put down to the public account as a loss for religion's sake: every individual of the caravan is besides a trader more or less in these expeditions, so that the amount of the value of the goods on these occasions is very considerable, and forms a great temptation to plunder to the numerous wild tribes through whose districts the caravan is obliged to pass.

The expenses of the chief are very great, as, besides the number of his friends and attendants, sometimes amounting to five hundred, and which he has to provide for on the road, the chief must find water for the whole caravan, furnish presents for the sheiks of the different Arab tribes to secure their good will and protection, besides paying the guides which have to conduct them over the deserts that lie in their way. The pilgrims composing the caravan, with the above exceptions, provide for themselves.

A few days ago, a high rabbi arrived at Tetuan from Jerusalem, for the purpose of collecting money in the empire of Morocco for the holy city. He appears a studious and devout man, and is so constantly engaged in reading that the people of the house where he has taken up his quarters told me that he scarcely gives himself time to eat, sleeping only about a couple of hours at night and then getting up to prayer. I have frequently observed the rabbies here quite stupid from intense reading. The Talmud, which very much engages their attention, consists of seventy books of controversy on the Jewish laws. They have also a book called Cabelist, only understood by some of the extraordinary rabbies, and which is said to enlighten those who are able to read it to that degree that it gives them a knowledge of every thing in this world and the next, besides the gift of prophecy.

El Mahedy.

The name El Mahedy means the good man which

is spoken of in the Koran as to appear before the end of the world. The Moors differ respecting this prophecy, the ignorant thinking that a man of this name is to come from the west, whilst Jesus Christ is to come from the east to judge the world. Others think that El Mahedy is to appear a little before the Saviour, which belief gives room for frequent impostors to impose on the weak and ignorant. The more enlightened Moors, however, are of opinion that El Mahedy, mentioned by their prophet, means our blessed Saviour, whom all Moors acknowledge to be a great prophet, although they do not admit him to be the son of God.

Talibs.

Talibs are the expounders of the Koran, and there are various grades of them. The first must be capable of doing it in the original Arabic, which they learn as we do Latin. The second are obliged only to have the Koran at their fingers end in the language of the country, and to explain it to the vulgar. The highest, however, and most learned of all the different talibs are those who are able to expound the Koran and the laws both in their ancient and modern tongue: such a person is styled El Fackey.

Mode of Salutation.

When Moors, or even Jews, meet each other in

the streets they touch each other's hands, and each kisses his own hands. When an inferior meets a superior he kisses the garments of the latter. The Jews visit each other on the morning of every sabbath to pay mutual compliments; thus if a son or daughter be married, the parties never on that day pay a visit to the parents, saluting them in the manner above mentioned.

Jewish Character.

The Tetuan Jews are not behind the rest of their brethren in all sorts of cunning and deceit; indeed in these respects I almost think them superior to them in any part of the world, although it must be owned the arbitrary and cruel treatment they are constantly experiencing from their Moorish tyrants is some excuse for them, being taught from their infancy not only to devise all manner of means to ward off and soften the arbitrary measures adopted against them, but also to retaliate with safety to themselves and as well as they can by cheating and overrating the poor ignorant country Moors and Arabs, and sometimes even the governor himself, and the towns-people, who are not far behind themselves in roguery and cunning. This they do without mercy whenever a good opportunity presents itself, and which is not unfrequently the case, as the idle and indolent Moors leave almost the whole of their affairs to be transacted by the Jews. Thus they contrive to make up for their ill usage, and revenge themselves for the squeezing of their

wealth, which they too frequently are obliged to submit to, at the hands either of the sultan or the great men and governors under him: the very boys, following the example set them by their parents, imbibe the same principles, and instead of thinking it a disgrace, rather glory in their superior cunning and prowess, whether exercised upon a Moor or a Christian, or even their fellow Jews. It is astonishing how early they are here initiated into business; and I have frequently observed boys of twelve and fourteen years of age actually shopkeepers on their own account. As soon as a father can spare a few dollars he establishes his son, although a mere boy, in a shop of his own, and furnishing him with a cheap assortment of tea, sugar, and spices, he launches him into the world, bidding him go and do as he has done, cheating all within his reach. The boy thus fairly set up in the world, begins to retail his little capital, and soon becomes as expert in dealing and making a tight bargain as his sire, or the experienced and wily Moors, asking three or four times as much as they intend to take, lowering by degrees, until their customer's pulse is ascertained, and always taking care at last to secure a handsome profit. An extraordinary spirit of intrigue, and a busy intermeddling temper, united of course with roguery and knavery, are the characteristics of the Barbary Jews. From the horrible treatment they are constantly subject to from the Moors, and the state of abject slavery they exist in, they are timorous and pusillanimous to a degree, and are only bold and hardened in cheating

and roguery. Candour or open-mindedness are qualities quite unknown among the race: to sum up the character of the Tetuan as well as the Barbary Jews generally, in a few words, I am inclined to think, from their treatment of each other, that when they have the power, no people are more inclined to tyranny and insolence in prosperity, or more abject and cringing when oppressed.

Provinces of Morocco, from the Information of my Interpreter.

Benihassan, the district where I am now residing at Tetuan.

Benidere, west of Tetuan, very mountainous. In this is situated the sanctuary of Muley Absalom.

Benihusmar, south of Tetuan, very mountainous, covered with snow a great part of the year.

Garet, east of Tetuan, containing four districts, Temsaman, Taferset, Calatrie, in which Melilla is situated, and Benituzin: the latter is a mountain district of forty leagues, terminating in the river Nocor.

Angera, north of Tetuan, all mountain. Ceuta is situated in this and all the coast district from Tetuan to Tangier.

Refe, east of Tetuan, comprising fourteen districts, namely, Benimart, Backoea, Beniorigan, Benisnasen, Zenaga, Talembadis, Marinisa, Kebdana, Talsa, Benisaid, Beniboyexed, Benituft, Beniyoushek (this contains iron mines), Mustassa: in the above pro-

vinces the European language is spoken, which differs little from the Breber tongue—a Breber can understand the former, while an Arab cannot. Refe may be considered nearly independent of the authority of the sultan.

Musmuda. In this province is the celebrated sanctuary of Wasan, on the top of a mountain, three days' journey from Tetuan.

Wadrass, west of Tetuan, all mountain.

El Fass. In this province is Tangier situated, and which, when it was deserted by the English, was first entered and peopled by the mountaineers of Errefe, whose descendants still inhabit the country around.

El Garbea. A small Arab district, west of Tangier. Before Sidi Mahomed's time it was entirely desert; this sultan, however, peopled it with five hundred Arab families from Ducala. The finest capons brought to Tangier market come from Garbea.

Amar, also a small Arab district, nearly west of Tangier.

El Garb. A considerable Arab province, divided into districts, under the command of the governor of El Garb, which signifies the west, in Arabic. These districts are Asgar, in which Larache is, Curt, Thlegg, El Halluts, Safian, Beni Maleck.

Fez. This province is inhabited chiefly by Arabs; in it are situated the cities of Fez and Mequinez, and the town of Sallee.

Sharaga, and Woled Jamar. Two Arab provinces near Fez.

El Heina. An Arab district, east of Fez.

Temesna, Shawea, Gayata, and Hayaina, all Arab provinces. In Gayata is the town of Rabat.

Ducala is a large province, west of the city of Morocco.

Abda is a large province, south of the city of Morocco.

The following Arab provinces are now the whole of them in revolt, namely, Shedna, Shetuka, Erhamna, Saragna, Zeraran, Shebanat, Woled Hamar, Morocco, Woled Dlem.

Tedla. A district bordering upon the desert.

Tafilet, inhabited principally by Arab tribes, also blacks. The family of the present sultan reside in this territory, which is styled the kingdom of Tafilet, and divided into three provinces, namely, Drah, Zaara, or the desert, and Touet, inhabited both by Arabs and Brebers.

Ritiwa, in the desert.

Wadroons, also in the desert beyond St. Croix.

Zanaga, including the tribes of Magrawe. Beni Esrow is also in the desert.

Tegort or Tecort, in the kingdom of Biledulgerid, but forming part of the sultan of Morocco's dominions.

The following districts, as well as I can collect their name from my Moor, are all Breber provinces, namely,

1. Mezgat, not far from Mequinez.
2. Ait Emor.
3. Zemor.
4. Gerawans.
5. Beni Emater or Imatir, near Fez.

6. Ait Use.

7. Beni Sadun, south of Fez.

8. Ait el Llalam.

9. Beni Emgild.

10. Zian, a very large province with lofty mountains. It was here that Muley Soliman was defeated by the Breber tribes.

11. Ait Shekeron.

12. Ait Isaac, or children of Isaac.

13. Ait Altar, near Tafilet.

14. Drah, peopled chiefly by a colony of blacks, with flat noses and thick lips, who speak Breber.

15. Sus, a very large province or kingdom, the natives of which speak a language of their own, supposed to be a corruption of the Breber tongue.

Muza. The sanctuary of Sidi Muza is on a high mountain, inhabited by a powerful tribe.

Ait, before the name of a Breber province, signifies the children or descendants of such a one; the same as the Errefean provinces almost all begin with Beni, which has a similar signification. There is a tradition in Morocco that some of the children of Israel, having been concerned in a rebellion, joined with the Brebers, and coming with them into Barbary, became Mahometans. The district called Ait Isaac (the children of Isaac) would seem to give a colour to this tradition.

Woled, affixed before the name of an Arab province, signifies also children or descendants.

Jewish Custom with regard to killing Animals and Preparation of Food, &c.

With regard to eating, the Jews of Barbary are, perhaps, more particular than any other people; none, at least, can exceed them, not only in the selection, but in the mode of preparing their food. The flesh of those animals that have the hoof divided is only eaten, and of those that chew the cud, as oxen and sheep, and such fish that are provided with fins and scales; the inner fat is not eaten, but is completely separated from the meat. There is a particular book of directions for killing animals, and the butcher, before he can commence his trade and be recognised as such, is obliged to undergo an examination before the chief rabbi of the town; and if he should prove himself sufficiently qualified, according to the book of instructions, a certificate to the following effect is given him: "To-day, in such a month and year, appeared before me the excellent and venerable A., the son of B., who, having been strictly examined, I find to be skilled in the art of killing, both by word and deed; I therefore permit him not only to examine but to kill sheep and cattle, and whatsoever he hath killed or examined may be lawfully eaten. He is, however, for a year to come, to peruse and study diligently the instructions for killing and examining once in every week; the second year, once every month; and ever afterwards, while he shall continue to exercise the said profession, once every three months. Signed, Rabbi J."

These butchers are extremely nice in the examination of any bullock or sheep, and more particularly so in overhauling the lungs, lights, heart, &c.; for if they find any fat of the bowels, &c. sticking into them, they separate it with the greatest care. Air is afterwards inflated into the lungs, to ascertain whether it can escape by any concealed aperture: should any hole be found, they cannot be eaten. They also practise another method of finding out the same, namely, by putting them into water, when the air will bubble up if the parts have sustained any injury, and if so, it is not lawful to eat it. The stomach and the vitals are then carefully examined, and if such a thing as a pin or a needle be found, which, although it may be thought very strange, is sometimes the case, the whole carcass is condemned; as also in the event of new or old sores being discovered, even of the most trifling nature. Should any sand be discovered sticking to the coats of the bowels, in small lumps of the size of a pin's head, and which is sometimes the case, the flesh of the animal is strictly prohibited from being used, and the sale of a fine beast is thus entirely lost to the butcher, who, as he would not dare on any account to offer it for sale to the Jews, has no other resource than to cut it up, and sell it to the Moors or Christians for a half or even a quarter of the real value; for the Mahometans knowing well the meat would not be sold to them if it could be disposed of to the Jews, take advantage of the circumstance, and will only take it at their own price, which is small enough, although the animal may be perfectly good

and fat. Moses is thus forced to get what he can, or submit to a total loss. Should a Jew butcher be found out in concealing any uncleanliness, as it is termed, in cattle, or in any way negligent as to his instructions in examining the animal, he is, for the first fault, severely reprimanded by the rabbi in public, and for the second offence his certificate is taken away from him.

The mode of killing a beast is by throwing it down on the ground, when the throat is to be cut at one stroke cleanly and cleverly, otherwise the meat cannot be eaten. Poultry can only be used that has been killed by the rabbi or his examiner, and who are entitled to a small fee. Fish is the only food in which they are independent, and the only thing they can eat which dies (for want of its natural element).

The Morocco Jews are also equally particular in their mode of preparing their food: in the first place, their culinary utensils must be either bought new, or if metal or of stone, bought at second hand, they must undergo the purification of fire and water. They have two kinds of vessels for the kitchen and table, the one used for flesh and the other for preparations of milk, or in which milk is included; the vessels for the latter ought (although this is not always attended to) to have three distinct marks, because Moses had thrice said, "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk." Sometimes the words heleb, milk, and besher, flesh, are written on the vessels to distinguish them. They have also separate knives, or separate sets of knives and forks, the one for flesh and

the other for fish, cheese, &c.; and should, by mistake, one be used for the other, it must be strictly purified before it be used again. Preparations of flesh and those of milk are not cooked at the same time, but must be done one after the other; neither are they brought up to table at the same time. In some instances likewise, as at houses of the rabbies, or those Jews who are very strict, different table-cloths are laid for each kind of food; for if flesh, or soup made of it, is first eaten, as is generally the case, cheese, or any thing prepared with milk, must not be eaten for at least an hour afterwards, and by those who are very strict, the latter are not taken for six hours after. In some countries, I believe, the Jews are in the habit of eating one immediately after the other, but this is not the case in Morocco. Here, if a man eats meat for breakfast, he cannot partake of tea if milk be used with it; this I have often been a witness to. On the other hand, the Jews in some parts of the world do not suffer fish and flesh to be brought to table at the same time; here, however, they are not so particular in this regard, although they are very careful about washing their mouths with water, or wine and water, between each. If grease or fat should chance to fall into a dish of milk, it is considered unclean. Certain birds only are held clean, and their eggs alone allowed to be eaten. Milk drawn by a Christian or Moor, or cheese or butter made by them, cannot be used; neither are cattle, sheep, fowls, &c. which have been either killed or cooked by any but their own hands, permitted to be used on any account. In this respect

the Barbary Jews are extremely particular; offenders are severely punished by the rabbies, by exclusion from the synagogue, their names being inscribed also in a black book, and no person being allowed to speak to or hold any communication with them: these punishments are so much dreaded that the laws are rarely transgressed.

The very first and wealthiest Jews never teach their daughters to read or write, it not being considered necessary, the women not being admitted into the synagogues; although, merely as lookers-on, and without taking any part in the devotions, they sometimes appear in the gallery by themselves, much in the same way as females in the House of Commons. Any thing further than housewifery, cookery, distillery, the use of the needle, and so forth, being considered unnecessary, the only channel through which they hear the word of God is their husbands, or the master of the house, who officiates, for the edification of his family, on Friday and Saturday evenings before and after supper, which ceremony, together with all drinking a glass of wine, even the children, as a sort of blessing, is never omitted. The lower classes, if ever so poor, even to starving, would not engage with one as a servant, if they were required to cook, or tend the fire on Fridays, and the same on Saturday evening, from a dread of the rabbi punishment, which would inevitably follow, should they be discovered; on this account a Jew servant is not of much use to a Christian on their sabbath.

In order to remedy the inconvenience of fire not

being allowed to be touched on the sabbath, an ingenious mode of cooking is had recourse to by a sort of oven, which is kept heated in such a way as to admit of warm breakfast and dinner for the whole family, without any part of it being obliged to touch or even see the fire. Conformably to the Jewish custom, the oil lamps are always lighted on the Friday evening preceding their sabbath, and before the sun is down, oil being used in preference to candles. During the twenty-four hours of the sabbath it is not lawful to smoke, although in some parts (not in Barbary), where the Jews are very fond of smoking, I have been told that they have a whimsical contrivance to gratify their passion, without infringing the law, which is by filling a kind of safe completely with tobacco smoke, sufficient to last them during the sabbath; to this is attached a tube from which they puff away ad libitum, and, as they do not touch fire, they are thus enabled to cheat the devil by this ingenious method. Jews are not permitted to travel, write, or even open a letter on the day of the sabbath: in the latter case, they will often bring their letters to a Christian, who having opened them, they think there is no harm in reading it themselves. A Jew cannot on this day even wind up his watch. The above will show how strict the Morocco Jews are; probably much more so than in Europe.

Moorish Customs.

The Moors are in the habit of blackening the eyes

of their children and the young women, on their marriage, with lead or lamp-black, making use of a small kind of instrument about the thickness of a bodkin, either of steel or brass, which being heated, they apply the powder to the eyebrows. The hair of the female children is also blackened in this way all over. The hair of the boys is closely shaven as soon as they can run, except on the right side, where a small lock is allowed to grow. Every Moor is obliged to keep his head shaven upward from the temples: the saints, however, are an exception, as they wear usually their hair long and clotted. Some of the Arab tribes wear their hair long, and, generally speaking, they are not so strict as the Moors in having their heads frequently shaved, as they may be frequently seen without turbans, and their jet-black hair of some length. The reason of this is, however, their wild habit of life and the difficulty of meeting with an operator at all times. The Barbary Jews also shave their heads, except at the crown, where a little patch of hair is left in conformity to the Scriptures.

Jewish Holiday.

This evening, September 28, was the eve of the Jewish holiday of new-year's eve, according to their style, and the following day the Jews of the place were engaged in prayer a great part of the day. On the 10th a strict fast commenced at sunset, and was continued to sunset on the following evening. All children from thirteen years of age are obliged to

observe this fast, but numbers of children much younger also keep it. On the 18th there was another fast, on account of their sins, which are supposed to be forgiven this day. It commenced at five o'clock the evening before, and was continued until eight in the evening of the following day. During the whole of the day, every person, without distinction, and however he may feel disinclined, is obliged to be in the synagogue at prayers without stirring, except in case of necessity. Those, however, who are very strict, go into the synagogue at the time the fast commences, at five in the evening the night before, not allowing themselves even to sit down or take the least refreshment, being attired in a shroud or burial-dress, bathing themselves before going in, and preparing themselves as if they expected to depart this life before the conclusion of the fast. At Fez and Mequinez on this day, some of the strict Jews, on entering the synagogue, plant themselves on a particular square stone, and pray for the whole thirty hours without tasting food, standing upright, without any thing even to lean against. At Mequinez the Jews have greater privileges than in other parts of Barbary, and at the celebration of their marriages the bridegroom rides through the town dressed exactly as a Moor, even to the red cap, but it is only on this occasion that they have this privilege.

Great Alarm at Tetuan.

A few days since, no small alarm was created here

in consequence of a vessel making her appearance, and which was supposed to be a French brig of war going to cut out an Algerine from under the guns of the fort. The governor, who was marching down to Marteen at the head of about fifty cavalry, provided with green and red flags, asked me to accompany them, which I did. A large concourse of people from the town followed, in different bands of one hundred each: these were on foot, each company preceded by a standard-bearer. The commanders were mostly mounted upon mules, and more generally upon donkeys, provided with such arms as the urgency of the occasion enabled them to get together—as hatchets, bills, daggers, &c.: in general, however, they were furnished with long guns and swords: some few had pistols. It was surprising to see the alacrity and enthusiasm with which they hastened down to the coast to meet the infidel enemy; and I do not think it was an hour after the alarm had been given from the top of the different mosques, that the governor and the troops above described passed by me in full march towards Marteen—tinkers, tailors, shoemakers, merchants, gardeners, all in the highest spirits at the prospect of combating the Christian foe. The quickness with which they turned out is owing to the following regulation enforced in every town in Barbary. Every individual of a certain age is obliged, in case of alarm, to assume immediately the duties of a soldier, and is expected to have always arms in readiness for this purpose, being ready at any summons to attend the bashaw of the province or governor of the town in re-

pelling any attack of an enemy. Every town is divided, according to its extent, into so many quarters, each of which lies under the command of a captain or alkaid, subordinate to the governor. It is the duty of the alkaid, in case of an alarm, to muster together the people of his quarter, and he marches at their head to whatever point the governor may direct. Neither officers nor men receive any pay, and are obliged into the bargain to supply themselves with provisions for short expeditions, than which a less expensive force could not well be found. A similar force is also kept up in each province, which is divided into so many districts, each with a captain under the same regulations, almost every man being in possession of a long gun, sword, and dagger, without which when travelling they scarcely ever stir. The only regular troops in the empire of Morocco consist of four thousand black cavalry, the descendants of the negroes brought into the country by one of the sultans, and about three thousand Arab troops from the province of Lardules, who are always stationed at New Fez; in addition to those the sultan has constantly about his person, whether he is at Morocco, Fez, or Mequinez. Tangier is the principal fortress in Morocco, if such it can be called: the bashaw has under his orders an irregular force of about one thousand five hundred horse and five hundred foot, who inhabit the neighbouring district, and are paid by having a portion of land to cultivate.

In the event of war, the forces of each province are assembled by the bashaw or governor and the alkaids

under him, and join the imperial army at such places as may be appointed, the hope of plunder being a powerful incentive to the multitude thus collected. The chief dependence is always placed on the cavalry, who are, generally speaking, picked men, being well mounted and armed with long muskets, the latter of which generally miss fire from the badness of the powder: they charge with the greatest vigour and enthusiasm, almost to madness, shouting "Hah! hah!" and when they happen to be engaged against the undisciplined rabble of their own countrymen, they generally bear every thing before them, although they would have little chance against a disciplined body of European cavalry. The Breber horse, as it has been before remarked, are the most determined, and are far superior both in horses and horsemanship, in the latter of which they are very expert; and these, aided by their own undaunted spirit, render them far superior to the Moorish cavalry, although the latter are better armed. The natives of Errefe are accounted good infantry in particular, and as being very expert in the use of the musket. The Arabs of Beni Hussen have the reputation of being the bravest people in Barbary; and Sidi Mahomed used to call these tribes the English of Barbary—no small compliment coming from a person who, besides the difference of his religion, never was a friend to the English. The Errefians and Brebers, who are constantly engaged in war, have persons who perform the duties of surgeons, and who extract balls with a kind of rude instrument. After this has been effected, their mode is to pour hot oil

into the wound, which is considered a sovereign remedy, and it is then bound up. The Moors possess medical books, written by the old Moors of Spain, but they are too ignorant and too idle to avail themselves of them.

Tetuan.

The town of Tetuan contains about forty thousand inhabitants, Jews and Moors. The Jew town is divided by a wall which opens upon a square; it is shut every night, there being a Moorish guard of two soldiers when the gates are closed. When you enter the Jew town, you see the merchants squatting down in the streets, or conversing with the shopkeepers in their little boutiques. The latter line the principal street, and consist of a small room, or rather closet, with only one aperture, serving both for window and door, there being but this single entrance. The houses of the principal Jew merchants are generally exceedingly good and well furnished. They have usually three or four rooms on the ground floor, and the same on the upper stories, the floors being prettily paved with a kind of tile of which there is a manufactory at Tetuan: they are of different colours—red, green, blue, white—and are tastefully arranged in patterns, so as to give the rooms a very pretty appearance. The sides of the room to a certain height are also ornamented with the same kind of tiles, but better glazed and varying in shapes. In summer, this pavement keeps the rooms cool, but in the winter season they are

covered with very handsome mats, also manufactured at Tetuan. Frequently very rich carpets are made use of, and which come from Rabat. A carpet for a good-sized room costs about twenty-four dollars, and a mat half the price. These mats are tastefully constructed in various patterns and colours, and have an exceedingly neat appearance. But few of the houses consist of more than two stories; above the second there is mostly a flat terrace, which affords a nice walk, with places for flowers at each side, and commanding a fine view of the sea, about six miles distant, of the fort and Marteen, where the English custom-house is situated: a fine view is also obtained of the surrounding mountains. The houses are built uniform, with open terraces at top, from which you look down to the square paleo or court-yard below, the same as the houses in Andalusia are disposed, the rooms and offices being arranged around this open square. The ground floor is generally beautifully paved with marble slabs, intermixed with glazed tiles, as are also the galleries above stairs: these have generally a railing of carved wood-work, and serve as a kind of walk on each story outside the chambers. The stairs are laid down also with this beautiful kind of pavement, arranged in stars and other patterns. In consequence of labour and masons' work being extremely low, good houses are to be bought from five to eight hundred dollars. Among the poorer classes, a separate family inhabits each chamber on the different stories, and pays about a dollar or three-quarters per month as rent. These rooms are, however, very long, and are capable of being

divided into two chambers, which is frequently done. The Moorish town constitutes about two-thirds of the whole; the houses are pretty much the same as in the Jews' town. Tetuan altogether is far superior to Tangier, having five bazaars for the Moorish merchants to sit in and sell their goods, which are brought from Fez and Gibraltar. These bazaars resemble those in the east, and are very extensive; but several of them, from the decline of trade, have been shut up and are gone to ruin. In this respect, all parts of Morocco have greatly suffered since the commencement of peace in Europe. Tetuan in particular has suffered, for in war-time, when the wind would not serve, the English ships of war used to come to Tetuan for livestock, and trade was in consequence brisk. The town is entirely surrounded with a lofty wall, which has eight gates: these are always closed a little after sunset, as at Tangier. The castle is situated above the town, on a commanding height, the wall of the town running up the side of the hill and joining it. Along the wall, at intervals, are embrasures without guns: the castle is mounted with a few cannon. The governor's house, built by the father of the present kaid, is a handsome structure and private property: near it, and close upon the great square, is another palace belonging to the sultan, and reserved for his use when he visits this town. The other principal buildings are the gaol and custom-house. The governor's stables are large and handsome, and contain many very fine horses. Tetuan abounds with mosques, and which, when viewed from the lofty terraces of the houses, have

an exceedingly picturesque and imposing effect. Most of them have high minarets, and being covered over with the glazed tiles already mentioned, of various colours and arranged in arabesque patterns, present a most splendid and glittering appearance, particularly when the sun shines upon them, which is pretty constantly the case in this climate during the summer months. The grand mosque has a lantern hoisted at the top of it every evening at nine o'clock, as a signal for the last prayers. The whole town being kept well whitewashed, and surrounded by mountains, with part of the range of the lower Atlas visible, as also the waters of the Mediterranean, the view altogether is remarkably fine and imposing from the terraces of the houses. The Jews have within their town about twelve synagogues. There is no such thing as glass windows here: the small apertures in the Moorish habitations which serve generally look into the interior court, but very rarely into the street, such is the jealousy of these people with regard to their females. In some houses there is a kind of screen-work aperture so contrived that the females of the houses can see what is passing in the street without being exposed to observation. The few windows are strongly secured with iron bars, with two shutters prettily carved in the arabesque fashion: the degree of light and sun is regulated by the opening and closing of these shutters.

The Moorish women have not the same aversion to the male sex of the Christian profession of faith as the men; on the contrary, they take great pleasure in

gazing at them, and frequently address them when no Moor is in sight and a good opportunity presents itself: this, however, is attended with great danger, from the extreme jealousy of the men. When walking on the terrace of my house, I have frequently received invitations from them by signs in a manner that could not be mistaken, but which a regard for my own safety obliged me to disregard.

The Sultan, Muley Soliman, taken prisoner by the Brebers, and subsequent Events which occurred in Morocco.

A province which is inhabited by the Breber tribes had resisted for several years during the reign of Muley Soliman the payment of taxes by force of arms, when the sultan at length, determined to subdue them, prepared an army of fifty thousand men at Morocco, where he resided. This army was raised by levying a certain number of men from each of the provinces, and consisted chiefly of an undisciplined multitude, his own body guards being the only good troops in the whole number—consisting, however, of not more than three hundred blacks. Before the army was put in motion, an officer was despatched as a last attempt to endeavour to persuade the rebellious natives to the payment of the just demands of the sultan: the reply returned was, that they had no objection themselves to pay the taxes, but as they had a great number of the scheerifs of the blood royal residing among them, who were exceedingly poor as well as their own

people, they demanded that the amount of the taxes that should be collected should be distributed in their own province. The sultan, however, not choosing to agree to this proposal, marched against them from Morocco about ten days' journey to the seat of rebellion, and, on his arrival, commenced by burning some of their villages, and frequent skirmishes took place at the same time between the Brebers and the sultan's troops. The former, however, seeing the destruction made in their country, sent a deputation to the sultan to pray for peace, and offering their submission, and which consisted of their most venerable old men, young boys and girls, all bearing the koran in their hands, as is the custom in such cases. The sultan, however, knew well how frequently the same demonstrations had been made before without their promises having been kept, and, being confident that the presence of his army alone caused this apparent submission, paid no attention to their supplications. Hostilities accordingly continued, and the Brebers, finding then that they had no hope but in their own courage and determination, resolved, after collecting a force of about ten thousand horse, to attack the sultan. This was accordingly done, and a feigned retreat afterwards made, in order to draw the royal forces after them. This succeeded, and the latter immediately began the pursuit, which lasted until night, when they pitched their tents in seeming security, little thinking that their repose was about to be disturbed by the runaway barbarians they had been pursuing throughout the day. About midnight, however, when it was very

dark, the Brebers returned, and in their turn attacked their invaders, surrounding their camp on all sides; and before the sultan and his army had time to recover from their surprise, or even to awake themselves, the whole body was either dispersed or put to the sword by the enraged mountaineers.

Among the sultan's troops were Brebers belonging to other provinces, and who now turned against their master, and joined their brethren in plundering the tents and carrying off the horses and mules. During the time this carnage and confusion was going on, the sultan remained in his tent, offering up his prayers to the prophet, and guarded by his three hundred black guards. His son Muley Ibrahim, however, put himself at the head of the troops, and while fighting bravely against his barbarian foes, was mortally wounded by a sabre-cut on his head. The Brebers soon carried every thing before them, and at last proceeded to attack the imperial tent, in which the sultan was, and before which a dreadful carnage now took place, the three hundred guards, being joined by some of the Fez and Tangier troops, doing all they could to stop the barbarians from entering the royal tent. The Tangier soldiers were commanded by Sidi Alarby, at this time governor of Tangier, and who on this occasion was wounded. At length the sultan's brave defenders dropped one by one, and the Breber host having conquered all opposition advanced to the royal tent, and one of their chiefs having entered it found Muley Soliman on his knees, with the koran in his hand, still in the act of prayer. The Breber chief, addressing the sultan, bade him not to fear, and

raising him from the ground carried him forth unobserved by the rest of his comrades amid the confusion that prevailed: having then placed him on a swift horse, he conducted him to his own tents, which were at some distance in the mountains, accompanied by some of his relations. It was in this spot that the powerful Sultan of Morocco was kept faithfully concealed and protected from danger by one of his chief enemies during the space of three days, at the expiration of which, having collected a chosen band of his own friends and adherents, he conducted his royal prisoner safe to Mequinez, one of the capitals of the empire. The sultan did not forget to reward this noble act of his brave defender. To return, however, to the camp—The victors, on the following morning, finding that the sultan had effected his escape, were retiring to their respective abodes, when they encountered Muley Ibrahim in a deplorable condition, lying mortally wounded on the ground, near the scene of the conflict of the preceding night. These brave mountaineers administered unto him every means of relief and assistance in their power, and sent him to Fez, where he resided, and where he died in a few days afterwards from the state of his wounds. On his deathbed this prince attributed his death to his own soldiers, on account of the strictness of the discipline which he kept up. The Prince Muley Ibrahim had been a great traveller, and had performed a pilgrimage to Mecca; returning from whence, he was brought from Alexandria to Tangier in an English frigate, the Druid, accompanied by a Moor as his interpreter, who is the very person who

now acts in this capacity for me. Muley Ibrahim, had he lived, would, no doubt, have done much for Morocco.

A short time after this defeat, the sultan, being safe at Mequinez, wrote to the chiefs of all the provinces to come to him: this order, however, was not only disregarded by the whole of the Breber districts, but an attack was made by them on those provinces who were favourable to the sultan: the latter having no force to make head against these proceedings was obliged to submit to this rebellious conduct, being actually blocked up in his own capital, not having sufficient troops to make his way to Morocco, and the other provinces being too weak to send him any assistance without being exposed to the attacks of the Breber tribes, who now surrounded Mequinez, and who when united in bodies are very powerful from their being excellent horsemen. This singular state of things lasted during several months, until at length the sultan, by favour of the night, and guarded by his own black troops and some of the Gerewan tribes, who alone remained faithful, contrived to effect his escape from Mequinez and got safe to Fez, situated at a short distance from the former city. He was, however, as badly off as before, being shut up also by the Brebers for about six months; the rebellious tribes being so bold and powerful as to intercept even the whole of the supplies, cutting off the different caravans, so that the city was reduced almost to a state of famine. This at last so roused the anger of the inhabitants that a revolt would have ensued, had not Muley Soliman,

by the advice of his friends, made his retreat to Morocco, where he remained about a year, the state of the country getting daily worse, one province fighting against another, without the sultan having sufficient energy and power to put a stop to it. The Fez people now seeing the total want of activity on his part, and his inability to restore tranquillity, determined to raise his nephew to the throne in opposition to him, and he was accordingly declared sultan, both by the merchants, the inhabitants in general, as also by the whole of the rebellious tribes, who came forward to assist his pretensions. There were, however, about three thousand troops who were blockaded in New Fez, as also four thousand of the sultan's black troops at Mequinez, who would not acknowledge him, but remained faithful to Muley Soliman. Muley Ibrahim, the newly proclaimed sultan, however, at the head of about one thousand troops, advanced upon Tangier, the people of the different provinces as he passed through them acknowledging his authority: this was done by them the more readily on account of the presence of a celebrated Moorish saint who accompanied him, and who told them that he was the sultan, and which was readily believed by all. When he drew near to Tangier, he sent word of his approach to the bashaws and the chief Moors of the place: they, however, refused to receive him except he could produce certificates of the death of Muley Soliman, to whom they had sworn allegiance. Upon this the Saint Sidi Hadge Alarby of Wazein wrote word back to assure them that Muley Ibrahim was now actually the reigning sultan, Muley

Soliman being the same as dead, and no longer capable of governing. On receipt of this the inhabitants of Tangier, to show their confidence in the saint, admitted Muley Ibrahim into the town, which he, being sick and not able to ride, entered on a litter carried by two mules. On his arrival he was received with the usual honours, waited upon by the whole of the inhabitants, as also by the Christian consuls, a royal salute of artillery being fired from the batteries. Presents which had been intended for Muley Soliman were at the same time presented to him by the different consuls. Muley Ibrahim remained three days encamped at Marchant, where he preferred taking up his quarters. While at Tangier, the governor of Tetuan, Ash Ash, sent a deputation to him, consisting of his son, the present governor, and some of the chief people, to invite him to Tetuan, in consequence of which he set off, and on his arrival was received with open arms. He was still exceedingly ill, and had not been above eight days at Tetuan when he died. News soon arrived that the real sultan, Muley Soliman, had set out from Morocco; upon which the followers of the deceased Muley Ibrahim, fearing now that the governor and his son, in order to make their peace with Muley Soliman, who was on his march, would oppose the scheme they now meditated of proclaiming Muley Said, Muley Ibrahim's brother, as his successor, they put both into prison. The people of Tangier, however, having heard of Muley Soliman's march, wisely refused to acknowledge Muley Said, but on the contrary sent troops and engaged

the adherents of Muley Said, although they were defeated, in consequence of the superiority of the enemy's horse, who were also assisted by artillery from the town batteries, near which the battle was fought, between twenty and thirty being killed on both sides. A few days after this engagement was fought, Muley Soliman arrived with a large army, all cavalry, and encamped at Ain el Dgede, from whence he sent a letter by two alkaids to Ash Ash, the governor, not knowing that he was in prison, telling him to surrender the town and imprison all Muley Said's adherents. This letter was, however, intercepted by Muley Said, who called a meeting of his principal officers, and finding the sultan's army too strong made an immediate retreat through the mountains in order to endeavour to reach and intrench themselves in Old Fez, which was adjoining the Breber country, and in which city all their friends were. Muley Soliman had, however, no sooner gained intelligence of his opponent's retreat and designs, than he directed his march instantly upon Old Fez likewise, and taking the best road was so quick in his movements that he reached that city before Muley Said, and immediately took up a position to prevent the enemy from entering the place. On the latter arriving, an engagement took place between the hostile parties, and Muley Said was defeated, and his troops, which only amounted to about one thousand, would have been all taken prisoners if Muley Soliman's army had not been more intent upon taking booty than prisoners. During the time Muley Said was at Tetuan, he had not been

unmindful, like a true Moor, of plundering whatever he could lay his hands on; and the poor Jews in particular suffered, it is said, to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars. This was fortunate enough for Muley Said, whose ill-gotten plunder now was the means of his escape; and the enemy being thus fully occupied in securing it, he made his retreat good into the town with a part of his followers, where they were well received by their friends.

Muley Soliman, finding himself thus outwitted, proceeded to occupy New Fez, which is adjoining Old Fez, from whence, for the period of near two years, he daily bombarded the latter town. During this time the governor of Tetuan, Ash Ash, was along with Muley Said in Old Fez, a Moor of the name of Alarby Ben Joseph having been appointed governor, pro tempore, at Tetuan; Tetuan, the province of Algarb, and all the Breber provinces except that of Gerwan, still remaining faithful to Muley Said. Muley Soliman, seeing how useful Ben Joseph was to Muley Said in furnishing him with powder and other supplies by sending across the mountains, left his son Muley Absalom in command of New Fez to watch the blockaded party, and proceeded to Tangier, where another of his sons, Muley Aly, now had the command; there he remained a couple of months: and despatched his son to Tetuan with an army, which being joined by the neighbouring mountaineers was soon swelled to ten thousand men.

On Muley Aly's arrival he first proceeded to take the fort and custom-house at Marteen; he then en-

camped close to the town, which was blockaded by him for some time to no purpose, in consequence of the determination of the inhabitants to defend themselves, and Muley Aly's little skill as a general. The besieging party were nevertheless provided with mortars and cannon, with which they kept constantly firing into the town, but with little effect. Muley Soliman at last, seeing the little impression his son was making upon the town, sent orders that the siege should be raised, which was accordingly done, and he and his troops returned to Tangier. By this time the people of Old Fez were so straitened for want of provisions that the principal Moors of the place wrote to Muley Soliman to say they were willing to surrender the town to him in person, and which was done on his arrival; Muley Said being given up to the sultan at the same time, although he had been previously acknowledged by all. Muley Soliman was of too kind a disposition to revenge himself upon the usurper, nearly related as he was also to him, merely requiring of him that he should simply walk through the town, unattended by any retinue or parade, as a token to the people that he was no longer to be regarded by them in his former authority; which having complied with, and resigned all pretensions to the throne, he was sent to Tafilet, where he from that time continued to reside quietly as a private individual.

The inhabitants of Tetuan having heard of the surrender of Old Fez now determined to give up the town, and submit to the authority of Muley Soliman;

and the governor, Ben Joseph, with several of the chief people, went with large presents to him to try and make their peace; but the sultan being about to depart for Morocco would not at that time return them any answer, but when he was on his road at Rabat he at length relented, and accepting their peace-offerings, pardoned them: he also sent Ben Joseph back as governor, which post he filled until Muley Soliman's death in 1822.

Moorish Sports.

The chief sports with which the Moorish youths amuse themselves are contests with the back sword: at these they are constantly seen practising in the streets, and outside of the town walls, under the guidance of a master, the spectators forming a ring around the combatants. A good deal of skill and activity is frequently to be witnessed in their exhibitions. In the country also the boys who are employed in tending the cattle may be observed engaging in the same sport, which is a very favourite amusement among the Moors.

Beni Essa Sect.

The other day a party of religious madmen of this sect mustered here for the purpose of proceeding to Mequinez, where there is a general assembly of these people once a year, not only from all parts of Morocco, but from the territories of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoly. On entering the soko or market-place, the

first freak they played was to lay hold of an unfortunate jackass, whose bowels they actually tore out with their hands alone in a most horrible manner, and devoured them, raw and bloody as they were, eating up the whole of the animal in this way, even to the very skin.

One of the brethren, not satisfied with his share of the tough and bloody feast, proceeded then by himself in search of more prey, and finding a poor goat killed it by the strength of his arm alone: he then tore it limb from limb, and eat the whole of it on the spot, not even excepting the hide. When these madmen appear, the poor Jews, and even the Moors, get away from them, as if they were wild beasts, as fast as possible. The former say that when seized by these fits of phrensy they would just as soon eat a Jew as a jackass, and are possessed of supernatural strength.

The Custom-house.

The custom-house at Marteen was built by a governor of this town in Sidi Mohamed's reign, and is about a mile from the bay, up the river. Vessels of forty tons can come up and discharge their cargoes, except when the tide is out, or during the summer months, when there is little water: in these cases they are obliged to unload before entering the river, which is done very quickly by means of two large launches. At the custom-house there are constantly two collectors, who are under the superintendence of the governor, who is, at the same time, the chief collector

of the customs at the port of Tetuan. There is also a guard of ten soldiers, who are relieved every week.

There are here stores to deposit the goods and merchandise, from whence they are forwarded to the town by means of mules.

The castle is situated at the mouth of the river Cus, and is a lofty square building consisting (as it appears to me, for no Christian is allowed ever to enter it) of a platform with sixteen guns, principally forty-two pounders. This castle was built by Bashaw Hamed Ben Ali, who enjoyed a more extensive command than had been intrusted before to any other subject, and which comprised not far short of a third of the empire. Bashaw Hamed, however, did not well repay the confidence which had been reposed in him by Muley Abdallah, then on the throne of Morocco, for he rebelled twice against his authority, and was eventually killed in battle near Fez. It was this bashaw's father, Alkaid Ali, who was in command of the army of Errefe at the time that the English evacuated Tangier, and who with his followers immediately occupied it on their departure, since which period it has remained in the hands of the Moors.

Barbary Cattle.

The cattle in the neighbouring districts of Tangier and Tetuan are not large: the beef, however, is considered sweeter and better tasted than the Spanish, and is greatly esteemed at Gibraltar.

The cows give a good deal of milk: the largest and finest are those from the province of Shawea.

The best horses come from the province of Abda, and sell from three hundred to five hundred dollars apiece. The sultan's stud is supplied from this district.

The Barbary mules and asses are extremely good: the former will sell as high as one hundred dollars occasionally if they prove to be good riding-beasts: those for burden fetch as high as thirty dollars and upwards.

The asses are exceedingly serviceable, being used in preference to mules for short journeys to and from the gardens, carrying heavy loads, &c. They sell from six to ten dollars and upwards.

The sheep are large and good: the best come from the Arab province of Drah, which supplies chiefly the wether sheep: it is, however, rare that any other besides ewes and rams are brought to the Tetuan market. At Tangier the wether are bought by the European consuls, and kept up to fatten. I have observed sheep here with three horns, and I am informed they are to be met with having five and six horns.

Goats are kept about the town in numbers for the sake of their milk and flesh.

Wild hogs are numerous in the mountains, both here and at Tangier: there is also great plenty of horses, rabbits, wolves, jackals, wild cats, partridges, and a variety of wild fowl: I have never observed any ducks or turkeys. Guinea-fowls, I am told, are to be met with at Rabat—whether truly or not is uncertain.

Roman Bridge.

Between Tangier and Old Tangier there are the remains of a bridge of Roman construction, divided by the ravages of time into two portions, one of which is tolerably entire. Not far from this bridge is one of far more modern date, and very different in its character, being the work of the Moors, and formed simply of the mainmast and spars of a Spanish eighty-four-gun ship, and which chance threw in the way of the Mahometans, having been thrown on this part of the coast. This mast, I am informed, was part of one of the Spanish men-of-war which were so gallantly destroyed off Algeziras by the British admiral Sir James Saumarez, and subsequently driven on the coast of Morocco, to remind the inhabitants of the superiority of British valour.

Natives of Sus and Errefe.

I find that the inhabitants of the provinces of Sus and Errefe are considered as Brebers, speaking the language, which only differs from that in other parts of Morocco by a prominent peculiarity of dialect common to all nations. In these two provinces the natives live in villages and huts, in which respect they differ from the Breber tribes of the Atlas mountains, who live in tents like the Arabs.

Public Rejoicing.

Great rejoicings have just taken place on account of despatches having been received by the governor from the sultan, stating that the imperial army, led by his majesty in person, had defeated the rebellious natives of two provinces, Sheadma and Shetok, which are situated to the southward, between Mogadore and Morocco. Four hundred prisoners were taken, besides camels, horses, cattle, sheep, &c.

Sept. 28. To-day two horsemen arrived from the sultan, whom they left at Saffe, at the head of eight thousand men, chiefly cavalry, with a corps of five hundred artillery, provided with fifty-five field-pieces and four mortars, collected principally from the old forts on the coast, with the addition of some lately received from Gibraltar. With this formidable force the sultan was marching against the rebellious provinces of Erhamna, Saragna, Zerara, Shebanat, Wooled Ghamar, and Wooled Dlem, under the government of the scherif El Mahedy, who was now in open arms against the sultan, and was the same who defeated and took prisoner Muley Soliman, as already related. The Moors of this place expect, from the known determination of the sultan to humble this rebellious and powerful chief, that a decisive battle will shortly take place. It is said that the latter sent lately a large and rich present to the sultan, but whether as a blind or a peace-offering is doubtful.

Oct. 4. News was received that Ben Tayeb, one

of the sultan's chief generals, and a relation, has been displaced. He had been sent against some of the rebellious tribes about Tafilet and Drah; but, either on account of his ill success, or some other secret cause, he has been suddenly disgraced and stripped of every thing. This Ben Tayeb is son to Muley Tayeb, brother to the sultan Muley Soliman, and who was governor of Tangier. His son is considered of a very cruel disposition, and thinks nothing of giving his people fifteen hundred strokes of the bastinado, so that many have died under his barbarous punishments.

Oct. 9. This day there were great rejoicings in consequence of news having been received of the sultan having defeated the scherif El Mahedy in front of his castle, where he had taken up his position to defend it with a large force. The battle continued three days, at the end of which the scherif was defeated, with the loss of five hundred as prisoners and one thousand killed, all of whom were beheaded. The castle was afterwards taken by the imperial troops, and so much plunder found that a quantity of wheat sold as low as a blanquil or a penny the almood. A sheep could be got for a blanquil: I was also assured that female black slaves sold, on this occasion, as low as a dollar apiece, but to which I can hardly give credit: most likely, however, they were old women who went so cheap; or, as others may think, so dear; for an old woman is not the most saleable of articles in other countries besides Morocco. The scherif El Mahedy, it seems, made his escape, and was pursued towards Sus by four hundred of the sultan's horse:

but, in the end, he succeeded in baffling his enemies, and escaped safely to the sanctuary of Sidi Hamed Muza, and which is held in such high veneration that he is perfectly secure while within its walls.

The castle or fortified wall which El Mahedy had attempted to defend is not far from Morocco, and in circumference, I am told, is as large as Tetuan, there being no houses within the walls, but the inhabitants, who are all Arabs, living in tents within them. The walls were defended with field-pieces, some of which were taken by El Mahedy on the occasion of his defeating the sultan Muley Soliman. Notwithstanding its vicinity to Morocco, this fortified place has been kept for some years in defiance of the sultan's authority.

The governor, in consequence of this great news, issued an order for every Moor to make a feast of six days, and the Jews one day. All the houses of both Jews and Moors were decorated with coloured silk flags, and there was a good deal of firing powder; on the top of one house I observed a small three-pounder field-piece discharged several times. The feast was arranged as follows:—each of the five principal streets or divisions of the town made in its turn a feast, the inhabitants from the other quarters being invited. The whole street was covered over at top by sail-cloth or canvas, thrown across from each house, and forming an awning to protect the guests from the heat. On the sixth day, the governor made his grand feast at the sultan's palace, to which my interpreter, from whom I received the account, and about five hundred of the most respectable Moors of the place were in-

vited. The governor himself was seated in state on cushions near the grand entrance, to welcome each visitor, who, as he entered, was conducted to the great hall, where tea, coffee, and sweet cakes were laid out, the guests being seated upon the ground upon richly coloured mats. The company were entertained with music and singing until about one o'clock in the morning, when supper was brought in; this was laid out on low tables, for the convenience of the guests, who were seated on the ground. Round each were seated ten persons, every table being furnished with four dishes, three of meat variously dressed, fowls, &c., and one dish of sweets, besides ten loaves of bread and plenty of pure water; a cup of strong coffee was afterwards handed to all. The governor and his friends superintended the feast, the soldiers acting as waiters and partaking also of the entertainment. The music, which consisted chiefly of guitars accompanied by the voice, was performed by musicians from the town, as also from Fez, who had been sent for on this occasion.

Abdelmaleck, who commanded the Tangier troops and also the artillery in the late battle, distinguished himself greatly, being the first to break the enemy's rank: he is highly esteemed by the sultan in consequence of his courageous conduct. The late bashaw of Tangier, as also the governor of El Garb, Ben Essa, fought also nobly, and were of the greatest assistance to the sultan. It is said, that El Mahedy, after having been beaten during the two first days, called his chiefs together and told them not to be daunted, as his guardian angel had

assured him that he should be successful the next day. To convince, and also to encourage them at the same time, he requested they would follow him to a certain place within the castle, where he had previously concealed a black man called Embarck, in a deep pit artfully covered over. This they did, and having arrived at the spot, he began to mutter some incantations entreating the assistance of the counterfeit spirit the following day. Upon this he was immediately answered by the concealed demon beneath that he need only have patience and fight bravely, and that he would infallibly conquer his imperial antagonist. This being heard by all the chiefs inspired them with renovated courage, and they certainly fought with the greatest bravery the following day, but unfortunately, contrary to the predictions of their guardian spirit, they were again beaten and the castle itself taken. Very shortly after this event took place, some of the victorious troops happening to pass by the spot where poor Blacky was immured, heard a voice from beneath calling lustily for help. This extraordinary circumstance caused them to look about them, and the entrance to the pit being found out, its unfortunate inmate was discovered, and having been hauled up almost starved to death, the whole mystery was revealed, as well as the treachery of his master, who had thus left him to perish.

Sidi Mahomed's Navy.

The sultan Sidi Mahomed always maintained a fleet of about thirty-five sail, frigates, brigs, &c., built

chiefly at Rabat, and had two thousand good sailors, who were generally from Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoly. There was also a school at Rabat for the purpose of teaching navigation, but which, after his death, was so neglected by his successor, Muley Soliman, as to be of no utility. This sultan having been educated as a talib, his pursuits and disposition were very far from being of a warlike turn, but quite the contrary, which was the reason why both the naval and military forces of the empire were reduced to so low an ebb during the period he remained upon the throne. He even parted with the whole of this fleet, having given it away ship by ship, as presents to other powers of Barbary. The present sultan, however, Muley Abderachman, has within the last two years revived the navigation school at Rabat and given it great encouragement, so that there is a likelihood of its again flourishing. At present it has twelve boys, who are educated at his expense, and instructed in navigation. The master is a very old man, between eighty and ninety years of age, who served as a lieutenant in Muley Soliman's reign, before his fleet was extinguished. This old man, who has the reputation of being the only person in the empire who knows any thing of navigation, possesses, according to the information of my interpreter, some books explaining the stars, and which, in all probability, are the works of the old Moors of Andalusia, who, among the various branches of science in which they so greatly excelled, paid great attention to astronomy. The last astronomer died at Rabat about sixteen years since, at the age of

nearly one hundred years. This man was considered to possess very superior talents, and the Moors say that he derived his knowledge of the stars by studying the old Andalusian books: it was from him that the present master of the navigation school received his education.

Ancient Title-Deeds.

Some of the Moors of Tetuan still possess papers and title-deeds of houses, land, and other property which their Andalusian ancestors once possessed at Granada prior to the fall of that city and the extinction of the Moorish empire in Spain.

Respect paid to the Kaids or Governors.

There is great reverence paid in Barbary to a governor; he is always surrounded by his guards, and whenever he stirs out of his house or castle, all the troops draw up in a line to receive him and salute him. Whoever approaches him does it with a profound salam. In hearing complaints and administering justice, all the parties kneel down before him.

In ancient times the people of Tafilet were in the habit of sending annually caravans with pilgrims to Mecca; and wishing to have one of the scherifs to reside in their country, they sent, in consequence, a petition to one of the great scherifs at Mecca to send them one of his sons, which request was complied with by sending his son Aly by the same caravan. This

person was the founder of the present reigning family of Morocco: his descendants at this day reside at Tafilet as high talibs, and are held in veneration by the people.

Establishment of the Sultan.

The Sultan of Morocco, I am informed, keeps a fool, a taster, a gun and sword bearer, and an umbrella-carrier. The umbrella is the distinguishing mark and privilege of royalty; and it is no less a crime than high-treason for a subject, however scorching may be the heat of the sun in these southern climes, to dare to avail himself of this simple method of counteracting its influence.

Prices of different Articles in Morocco.

Butter, fifteen dollars per cwt.; honey, three dollars per cwt.; wax, eighteen dollars per cwt.; cheese, five-pence per pound; oil, three-pence per pound; soap, three and a half dollars per cwt.; raisins, two-pence per pound; figs, two-pence per pound; dates, six-pence to eight-pence per pound; apples, a dollar per cwt.; peaches, one shilling and four-pence per hundred; pears, ten-pence per cwt.; garvances, one shilling and eight-pence per almood; barley, one shilling and eight-pence per almood—very dear, it being usually only eight-pence; potatoes, four shillings and six-pence per cwt.; green figs, half a dollar per cwt.; cabbages, a halfpenny to a penny apiece; cauliflowers,

four-pence apiece; artichokes, ten for two-pence; oranges, eight-pence to one shilling and four-pence per hundred; walnuts, from the province of Zenaga in Refe, two-pence per hundred; chestnuts, one shilling and eight-pence per almood; grapes, two shillings to two shillings and eight-pence per cwt. N. B. There are many kinds of grapes, as Muscatel, Alicant: a small black grape, grown on the mountains, and which comes in about September, makes the best wine. Cattle are to be bought from ten to thirty dollars each; horses, from twenty to three hundred dollars each; hares, five-pence apiece; rabbits, three-pence apiece; partridges, three-pence apiece; a good-sized hen, eight-pence; a full-grown cock, five-pence. Eggs, in summer, are to be had five and six for a penny, but in winter are dearer. Beef, two-pence per pound; mutton, two-pence per pound. A fat sheep costs from two to two and a half dollars; a lean sheep, about a dollar; a lamb, about one shilling and three-pence: a good she-goat, for milk, costs about seven shillings and six-pence; a kid, two shillings and six-pence. Fish, the very best, costs about two-pence halfpenny per pound; small fish, as sardinians, &c. may be bought three pounds for a penny. A kind of salmon, which is caught in the Sibou river, and is brought salted to Tangier and Tetuan, costs about half a pisete each.

Consideration on the Part of the Sultan on the Occasion of his Visit to Tetuan.

The sultan, on his arrival at his palace here, observing a considerable number of rich carpets and other valuables, with which the governor had adorned his rooms, inquired from whence they came: to this the governor replied, that they belonged to different Moors and Jews who had lent them for the occasion. Upon hearing this, the sultan declined keeping them, and gave orders that they should be sent back to their respective owners. During his stay he never made use of any article which was not his own property. On his entrance into the town, he declined having the umbrella borne over his head as a mark of royalty, out of consideration to the two sons of the late sultan, Muley Soliman, his uncle, and whose feelings he was desirous of sparing on this occasion. It was to the prejudice of these princes, who were the lawful heirs to the throne, that the present sultan received the crown, by the will of Muley Soliman, for the reasons which have been already explained.

Account of my Reception on my Arrival at Tetuan to re-establish the British Vice-Consulate.

It was five o'clock in the afternoon when I reached Tetuan from Tangier, but was not permitted to proceed beyond the first gate until the order from the sultan authorizing my reception had been read over

by the governor of the town; after which two of his alkaids were sent to conduct me into the Jews' town, to the house of Mr. Hassan, a Jew merchant, who had hitherto acted as the British agent. These two alkaids I dismissed with a present of a couple of dollars. That evening the governor sent me a present of a sheep, two hundred eggs, twelve fowls, and two pots of butter, and which were brought me by four alkaids, who received from me, as a present, a dollar each.

The following day I had my first interview with the governor of the town of Tetuan, whose name is Ash Ash, who received me with great civility. I was accompanied by my interpreter, Hadje Mohamed Asharqui, and Mr. Hassan. The following was the present provided by me on this occasion, and which was now given, viz.

Six canisters of fine green tea, packed in tin cases of one pound each.

Six loaves of sugar, each loaf weighing six and a half pounds.

Four pieces of muslin, two pieces plain and the other two sprigged.

Two pieces of cloth.

Three pieces of French silks.

After my present had been graciously received, tea, coffee, and sweet cakes were brought in and handed to me and my attendants, which we partook of.

Having been recognised thus as the British vice-consul, I addressed his excellency, saying that I hoped my coming would be the means of cultivating a better

understanding between the two countries, and begged that he would provide me with a house on which I might hoist the consular flag.

After my audience was concluded, the two officers who had accompanied me as a guard from Tangier took their leave of me to return to Fez, after having received a present of blue cloth, silk handkerchiefs, tea and sugar, besides a present of fifty dollars.

With regard to the vice-consular residence I had no little difficulty, as the governor professed to have received no instructions on this head from the sultan, and without his authority could not provide me with one. In consequence of this I was obliged to look out myself for one, which was no easy task, houses being scarce and very dear. I determined to take up my abode in the Jews' town; for although the governor did not decidedly object to my residence in the Moorish quarter, he said it would be the safest and pleasantest for me to take up my quarters in the Jews' town, on account of the jealousy of the Moors, and from their having been unaccustomed for so many years to have a Christian among them; and as I agreed with him in his views on the subject, nothing more was said on this head.

Moors serving in the Turkish Army.

It is said here that there are 12000 Moorish soldiers in the service of the Grand Porte, and that 250 of these belong to Tetuan. It is probable, however, that the number, at least of the former, is overrated,

although, from what I have learnt, it is very likely that the people of Errefe have been invited to join and assist their brother Mussulmen the Turks. There is no doubt but that numbers of the Algerine Moors are in the service of Turkey.

Yesterday a Moorish brig of war came in from Tangier to take in provisions, and which were to be supplied by the people of the town by contribution. One object of her coming was also to take on board some guns, and which were accordingly removed from the castle, and being sent down to Marteen were put on board the brig. It required the assistance of most of the people in the place to get them down to the spot.

Disturbed State of the Neighbourhood.

On my first arrival at Tetuan, the adjoining country, which is inhabited by the mountaineers, was in so unquiet a state, from the natives refusing to pay taxes, or to respect the sultan's authority, that it was not considered safe to go without the walls unarmed, several instances of robbery having occurred close to the town. In consequence of the rebellious conduct of these mountaineers, the Bashaw of Tangier proceeded on an expedition against them, accompanied by a force of 500 cavalry, but returned without having been able to effect any thing, on account of the strength of the mountaineers, who were well armed, and two or three thousand in number, as it was reported; the impenetrable nature of the country en-

abling them, with even a very inconsiderable force, to set at defiance all attempts of the regular troops at subduing them. The lawless conduct of these people, it is said, will have the effect of bringing the sultan himself against them at the head of a considerable army.

Englishmen allowed to ride through the Town.

Hitherto the jealousy and arrogance of the Moors forbade Christians as well as Jews from appearing on horseback within the town. This restriction, with regard to my own countrymen, I was determined to do away on my arrival as soon as an opportunity presented itself, and which shortly offered in the persons of two British officers, who had come over from the garrison of Gibraltar to pay a visit to Tetuan.

The governor, on my remonstrating with him, pleaded the old custom and the truly Moorish excuse, that he was afraid the Christians, if permitted to ride in the streets, would trample on the Moors, or that they might be insulted, which latter was more probable: on my urging him, he at last, however, consented that all Englishmen should be allowed to appear in the streets of Tetuan whenever they pleased on horseback, as at Tangier. With regard to presents, he told me that he would receive any English officer, whether they brought him a present or not; and with regard to the Moorish soldiers who might attend them as guards, he would leave it to the officers to give them what they pleased.

Wild Beasts.

Lions, it is said, are found in the districts of Fez and Rabat, as also a kind of panther. One of these latter was killed a few years since not far from this town, after it had committed great ravages among the sheep and cattle.

Moorish Marriages.

There being no intercourse between the sexes, and as the women are obliged to conceal their faces carefully from the view of the male sex, a man has scarcely ever an opportunity of even seeing the countenance of the female he may be about to marry. The way in which these affairs are managed is this:—When a man has heard by report a favourable account of the qualities of mind or body of a certain female, he generally despatches his mother, or some near female relative, to ascertain how far it may prove correct, and should a favourable report be returned, he then sends either a priest or a male relation to the father to inform him that such a one wishes to marry his daughter: the father, upon this, takes a day or two to advise with the mother on the subject, the daughter not being consulted at all in the business. If the match be considered advantageous, a certain sum of money is demanded. This depends upon the custom of the place and the circumstances of the man: at Tangier it seldom amounts to more than a hundred dollars and a

female slave; whereas at Tetuan from 100 to as much as 1000 dollars are expected, according to the circumstances of the party. Half of this sum is usually paid down, in order to purchase clothes; for the other half a bond is generally given to the bride, for the payment of which he is responsible in case the lady may not prove so satisfactory as was expected. These preliminaries being settled, the nearest relation of each party goes to the judge, and acknowledges before him the contract they have made on the part of the bride and bridegroom. Two public notaries afterwards write down the aforesaid contract verbatim, which is signed by the judge and these notaries as witnesses of the document, one copy of which is kept by the latter, and another by the bridegroom, the father taking charge of the bond on account of his daughter.

Two or three days before the wedding-day the bridegroom entertains all his friends with eating and drinking tea and coffee, music and singing, while the bride on her part also entertains all her female relations and friends. Every night the bridegroom proceeds round the town accompanied by the whole of his friends on each side of him, supporting and as it were dragging him along like a thief going to the gallows, nature in these demi-savage countries openly expressing its apprehensions and fears as to the new state it is entering into, instead of cajoling itself as with us, and clothing itself with smiles and mirth in the face of misfortune itself. On these occasions an immense concourse of people, bearing large wax candles and lanterns, usually attend the bridegroom; there is also

a band of music, which they accompany with their voices, producing altogether a most wretched kind of discord, but which sounds melodiously enough in the ears of a Moor. On the wedding-night the bridegroom, who, by contract, pays all the expenses of the marriage, proceeds on horseback, dressed as well as the sultan himself, and wearing a sword. He is accompanied by all his friends, who bear lights along with them, and keep up a continued although irregular firing from guns. A kind of cage, covered with silk, shawls, or hayks, according to the means of the party, is at the same time conveyed to the bride's house, the bridegroom remaining at the door on horseback with all his companions, the music playing and guns firing. On the arrival of the cage, the female attendants of the bride come out of the house, and helping it off the mule's back carry it inside. The lady is then put into it, and at the expiration of a certain time it is again brought out, and being hoisted on the animal's back it is conducted to the bridegroom's residence, accompanied by the same procession, music, lights, and firing, the man riding at the head of the cavalcade. On the procession arriving at the house, the husband dismounts and enters first, and two or three men lift the cage and its contents from the mule, and they are carried within doors. The door being then shut, the music and firing are continued for some hours in honour of the event. Should the husband be fully assured of the purity of his wife, great rejoicings are kept up by the relations of both parties; but should the contrary prove the case, the husband is

at liberty to turn her instantly out of doors, and can oblige the father not only to take her back again, but to repay all the expenses that have been incurred. In case, however, the wedding succeeds, the happy pair are visited the following evening by the friends of both parties with drums and other music, and who station themselves at the door. A sumptuous entertainment is prepared for the occasion by the bridegroom, and numerous small low tables, about a foot from the ground, are covered with abundance of kouskous, fowls, mutton, grapes, water-melons, &c., pure water being only drank by the guests. After all have well eaten, a cloth is spread and a general collection is made by the company assembled, which is afterwards placed at the disposal of the husband for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the feast. The bride, according to the custom of the country, cannot leave her house or go out for the space of a year, and the husband, on his part, cannot pursue his trade or calling for eight days afterwards. A Moor, should he not be able to agree with his wife, can at any time get rid of her by paying what he contracted at his marriage and giving her a paper releasing her from her engagement to him: he can then take another wife, and the woman another husband.

The dress of the higher ranks of Moorish women is splendid and becoming. A zone of scarlet or blue velvet, richly embroidered with gold thread, is placed immediately below the bosom, and serves to confine a loose robe, open in front, so as to display a rich pair of pantaloons. The feet are covered with embroidered

slippers, the legs and ankles being generally naked. At Tetuan, however, they are covered by a piece of fine white cotton, wrapped round something like a stocking: rings of massive gold or silver are worn just above the ankle, as also on each arm. The ear-rings are uncommonly large. The head-dress is composed of a kind of turban of rich shawls or silk handkerchiefs of various brilliant colours, of the Fez manufacture. On the forehead is placed a sort of crescent composed of pearls and different precious stones, worked in blue or crimson velvet, the effect of which is very brilliant and imposing. When the Moorish ladies appear out of doors, none of this finery is to be seen, as they are then entirely covered by a flowing white hayk. The beautiful black hair of the Moorish females is ornamented with a profusion of strings or fillets of coral, and amber necklaces of topaz, chrysolite, amethyst, and emerald are also worn. All kinds of costly perfumes are much prized, and at Fez a particular sort of clay is made use of, which imparts a lustre to the face and hands.

INDEX.

Abdallah, a Moor, i. 190, 193, 194, 205.
———, Sultan of Morocco, ii. 62.
Abdelmalech, fate of, i. 356, 357.
Abderahmen, reign of, ii. 252, 254.
Aben Humeya, defeat of, ii. 235.
Abenseur, Mr. of Tangier, i. 148, 326.
Abomelique, son of the Sultan of Fez, ii. 149.
Abury, Celtic monument at, ii. 38.
Acorns, sweet, abundant in Barbary, ii. 72.
Africa, approach to the coast of, i. 137; landing in, 138; sporting in, ii. 15.
African hospitality, i. 193.
Agriculture in Morocco, i. 296, 400; ii. 9.
——— in Spain, ii. 173.
Ahd Garbia, ii. 31.
Ain Dalia, ii. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10.
Ain el Djedide, a spring, i. 200.
Alameda, or public walk, at Cadiz, i. 9, 12, 13, 21; at Seville, 54; at Gibraltar, 126; at Ronda, ii. 186, 187; at Malaga, 205; at Granada, 230.
Alava, province of, ii. 323, 324.
Albayzin at Granada, ii. 230.
Alcala, approach to, ii. 240; situation of the town, 241; castle of, 242, 244.
Alcassaba, at Tangier, described, i. 149, 150, 182; at Larache, ii. 85; at Arzilla, 111.
Alcassar, town of, i. 323, 326; ii. 61, 92.
Alcazar at Seville, i. 51.
Alcolea, ii. 266.
Aldora, cakes of, ii. 48.
Algaroba, or locust-tree, i. 291.
Algeziras, i. 94, 116, 121; its situation, 123; the inhabitants jealous of the English, 125, 136; strength of the place, 148, 149, 152, 156.
Algiers, subjugation of, i. 322.
Alholba, grain of, ii. 79.
Alhama, town of, ii. 215.
Alhambra at Granada, ii. 221.
Ali, Bashaw of Tangier, i. 294.
Ali Bey, his visit to Barbary, i. 318; enterprise of, 319; his journey to Mecca, 320, 321.
Almanzor, a Moorish chief, i. 382.
Almoradiel, ii. 285.
Alonzo XI. King of Castile, ii. 149.
Alpujarras, ii. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237.
Altercation, violent, ii. 122.
Amaar, Bashaw of El Garb, i. 227.
Amontillado wine, i. 85.
Amusements at Cadiz, i. 13.
Andalusia, costume of the peasants of, i. 26; heat of, 47; palm-tree of, ii. 174; murders numerous in, 176; Moors of, 209; cavallero of, 256; climate of, 284, 310.
Andalusian lady, i. 12; beauties of, 14; at mass, 49.
——— villa, i. 73.
Andujar, ii. 265, 266, 267.
Animals, customs with regard to killing them, ii. 348.
Antiquities, Roman, near Malaga, ii. 206.
Arab douar, ii. 13, 17, 53, 117, 121, 123.
—— encampments, i. 196, 198, 203; ii. 4, 18, 47.
—— necklaces, ii. 49.
—— tower at Seville, i. 51.
—— women, ii. 7, 117.
Arabs, their conquest of Spain, i. 109.
——-, Bedouin, i. 198, 203; their mode of life, ii. 18, 19, 20; various tribes of, 22; retaliations of, 23.
——-, Nommade tribes of, ii. 21.
——-, Spanish, build Tetuan, i. 208.
Aranjuez, ii. 291.
Arbour Lows, temple of, ii. 41.
Archbishop of Seville, i. 63.
Argo, or paper nautilus, ii. 101, 102.

Army, French, withdrawn from Spain, i. 10.
——, Turkish, Moors in, ii. 388.
Arrieros, or muleteers, ii. 240.
Arrizaga, Gen. his defeat, ii. 291.
Artillery, Moorish, i. 170.
Arts, fine, i. 55.
Arzilla, i. 372; ii. 94, 99; approach to the town, 103; streets of, 104; saint of, 106, 109; alcassaba of, 111; Moors of, 112, 114, 115; view of the town, 116.
Ascent, difficult, i. 118.
Ash Ash, Governor of Tetuan, i. 218; ii. 369, 388.
Assassins, Spanish, ii. 205.
Atlantic, views of, ii. 8, 11, 60.
Atlas mountains, i. 190, 191, 200, 203, 207, 223, 251, 254, 299, 303, 360; ii. 5, 15, 27, 36, 60, 206, 217.
Auctioneer, Moorish, i. 275.
Austrians, defeated before Larache, ii. 73.
Ayache, river, ii. 31.

Bandit, celebrated, ii. 274.
Baptism, Jewish ceremony of, i. 377.
Barbary, coast of, i. 136; price of provisions in, 173; travelling in, 180, 183, 189, 193; ii. 177; roads in, i. 184; aspect of the country, 199; Jews of, 247, 249, 250, 255; natives of the coast of, 284; danger of landing in, 285; wheat of, 297; ii. 78; colonization of, i. 298, 322; famine in, 299, 388; middle classes in, i. 410; sporting in, ii. 14; mouse of, 31, 53; saints of, 32; pirates of, 129, 168.
———, cattle of, ii. 375.
Barbecieux, town of, ii. 333.
Bargains, collection of, i. 177.
Barrossa, heights of, i. 21.
Bashaw of Tangier, i. 132; visit to him, 151; his person described, 152; present from, 154, 191, 192, 199.
Bastinado, punishment of, i. 159, 160, 389, 411; ii. 337.
Battering-ships, construction of, ii. 158, 159; blown up, 161.
Baylen, field of, ii. 269, 278.
Bayonne, diligence to, ii. 312; appearance of the town, 328.
Beauty, Moorish, i. 243, 244.
Bedouin Arabs, i. 198, 203; their mode of life, ii. 18, 19, 20, 21; various tribes of, 22; retaliations of, 23; their hospitality, 24.
Bee-eater, ii. 209.
Beef of Barbary, i. 184.
Belem, castle of, i. 5.
Belzoni, the traveller, i. 316, 317.
Beni Essa sect, i. 416; ii. 373.
Beni, Goffert, ancient pillar at, i. 325, 326; allusions to, ii. 34, 36, 38.
Beni Hassan, mountain of, i. 201; ii. 4.
Beni Messawar, mountain, ii. 10.
Ben Mesbali, i. 348.
Benoliel, Mr. the Moorish consul, i. 132, 134, 315.
Benzelul, minister, i. 151; his wealth, 316.
Besius, tomb of, i. 150.
Bidassoa, river, ii. 326; passage of in 1813, 327.
Biscay, bay of, i. 2, 4, 8; ii. 326, 328.
Biscayans, industry of, ii. 325.
Blas, Signor, of Tangier, i. 175.
Boabdil, a Moorish king, ii. 227.
Boar, wild, diversion of hunting it, i. 305; killed, 308.
Boars, numerous, ii. 57.
Bodegas, or wine-vaults, i. 89.
Bologna sausage, ii. 243.
Bourdeaux, ii. 329; approach to, 330; streets of, 331—333.
Bowles, Mr. opinion of, ii. 44.
Brackenbury, Mr. British consul at Cadiz, i. 12, 19.
———, Mr. jun. i. 9.
Brandy, Jewish, i. 412.
Bravo, Signor, his collection of pictures, i. 55, 56.
Bread, black, gift of, ii. 113.
Breakfast, a travelling one, ii. 242.
Brebers, or Schilluhs, i. 190, 191, 192, 251, 252, 253; famine among, 299; their origin, 347, 360; tactics of, 395; ii. 27.
Bribes, requisite in Morocco, i. 220, 221.
Bridge, Roman, near Tangier, ii. 377.
Brigs of war, Moorish, ii. 129.
Brooke, Sir Arthur, embarks for Lisbon, i. 1; his arrival in that city, 5; at Cadiz, 9; sets out for Seville, 24; describes a bull-fight at St. Mary's, 27; proceeds up the Guadalquivir, 39; reaches Seville, 41; sets out for Xeres, 66; describes the different processes of the vintage, 80; his departure, 96; arrives at Medina Sidonia, 101; at Vejer, 106; ascends the Trocha, 120; reaches Algeziras, 123; his description of Gibraltar, 126; sails

for Barbary, 134; approaches the African coast, 137; lands at Tangier, 138; his account of the town, 140; of the condition of the renegadoes of Morocco, 162; of the marriage ceremonies of the Moors, 165; his departure for Tetuan, 181; his escort, 182; his night-quarters, 187; his particulars relative to the Schilluhs, 190; reaches Tetuan, 206; his reception by the governor, 216; describes the oppressions practised in Morocco, 225; sketch of Muley Ishmael, 229; of the Jews of Barbary, 248; rapacity of his guards, 259; leaves Tetuan, 260; route to Tangier, 268; history of the place, 270; visits Mount Washington, 292; his shooting-excursions, 303, 307; disappointment of, 309; his permission to travel, 324; his departure from Tangier, ii. 1; crosses Ghabat Akloo, 11; his account of the Bedouin Arabs, 18; of the saints of Barbary, 32; his description of El Uted, 36; crosses the Myrtle Plains, 52; reaches a Moorish village, 55; enters Larache, 67; his account of the place, 70; passage over the Luccos, 96; journey along the coast, 100; arrives at Arzilla, 104; unwelcome visit, 106; his valuable present, 110; crosses the Holge, 119; describes the persons of the Moors, 133; his arrival at Gibraltar, 146; general sketch of the history of the fortress, 147; his departure, 166; crosses the Guadiaro, 168; reaches Gaucin, 170; route from Gibraltar to Ronda, 173; his apprehension of robbers, 178; arrives at Ronda, 182; visits the Cueva del Gatto, 190; sets out for Malaga, 196; reaches Burgos, 199; Malaga, 202; Velez, 209; Alhama, 215; Granada, 220; description of the city, 223; town of Santa Fé, 227; visits the Soto de Roma, 228; his sketch of the Moriscoes, 232; arrives at Alcala, 241; Rio del Castro, 244; sets out for Cordova, 249; account of the city, 251; route to Seville, 263; Andujar, 266; his escort, 272; reaches La Carolina, 279; Venta de Cardenas, 283; Valdepenas, 286; Puerto Lapiche, 290; Ocana, 291; arrives at Madrid, 292; describes the city, 293; visits the Escurial, 298; leaves Madrid, 312; approaches the Guadarrama mountains, 314; his fellow-passengers, 316; reaches Burgos, 321; Vitoria, 323; approaches the Pyrenees, 325; arrives at Bayonne, 328; Bourdeaux, 330; Poictiers, 333; embarks for England, 334.

Brown, Dr. of Gibraltar, i. 415.

Buitrago, ii. 313.

Bull-fights, Spanish, i. 25; described, 29; presence of the ladies at, 36.

——— at Ronda, ii. 190.

Burckhardt, the traveller, i. 320.

Burgos, town of, ii. 199, 321; siege of, in 1812, 322.

Burial-grounds, Moorish, i. 280; ii. 10.

Busfiha, river, i. 204.

Butchers, Jewish, ii. 349.

Cadiz, city of, i. 7; bay of, 8, 106; fine situation of the place, 9; siege of, 10; ii. 188; its present state, i. 11; alameda or public walk at, 12; amusements at, 13; the Plaza St. Antonio, ib. ladies of, 15; signal-tower at, 18; interesting objects in the vicinity of, 20; condition of its inhabitants, 21; opera at, 22; public buildings, 23; contrasted with Seville, 42, 54, 64; preparations at, 156; allusions to, 237, 283.

Camels, on riding, i. 310.

Cannonade, ii. 159.

Capa, or Moorish cloak, ii. 196.

Capataz, or overseer, i. 91.

Caravans in Morocco, i. 407; ii. 338.

Carcel Militar at Seville, i. 62.

Cardenas, Venta de, ii. 283, 284.

Carpets of Morocco, ii. 91.

Cartuja, or Carthusian convent, near Xeres, i. 73; its wealth, 77—97.

Casa di Carbon at Granada, ii. 229.

Cassare, town of, ii. 169.

Castellane, Count de, i. 26.

Castile, climate of, ii. 310.

———, Old, ii. 315.

Catalonia, affairs of, i. 61, 62.

Cathedral of Seville, i. 49.

Catherine, Infanta of Portugal, i. 271.

Catigern's monument, ii. 41, 42.

Cattle, herds of, i. 116, 184.

Cavalry, Moorish, i. 142.

Cavern at Cape Spartel, i. 283.

Ceremonies, Jewish, i. 362.

Ceuta, deserters from, i. 161, 162, 163; siege of, 164, 208; route

from Tetuan to, 257; advantageous situation of, 258, 270, 287; excursion to, 379; allusion to, 371; ii. 132, 152, 204.
Charity, Jewish, i. 426.
———, Moorish, ib.
Charles III. reign of, ii. 281.
——— V. reign of, ii. 150; palace of, at Granada, 223.
Chaves, Marquis de, ii. 267, 328.
Chiclana, small town of, i. 20, 21.
Children, Moorish, i. 244.
Christian, his injunctions on turning Moor, i. 427.
Circumcision, ceremony of, i. 141.
Clapperton, Captain, his death, i. 148.
Clementi, computation of, ii. 239.
Coach and twelve, ii. 275.
Coast of Morocco, described, ii. 100.
Cohen, Jews so named, i. 411.
Colebrooke, Mr. ii. 42.
Colonization, on effecting it in Barbary, i. 298, 322.
Columbus, particulars respecting, i. 50; ii. 228.
Companions, dangerous ones, i. 306.
Conjuror, Moorish, i. 340.
Consuls, European, their gardens at Tangier, i. 294.
Convent of the Escurial, ii. 304.
Convicts at Malaga, ii. 204.
Cookery, Spanish, ii. 225.
Cordova, ii. 206, 213, 225, 238, 244, 248, 249, 250; architecture of, 251; great mosque at, 252, 264; its former splendour, 253; the palace of Zehra, 254; allusions to, 256, 257, 258; bigotry at, 260; gloom of the people, 261; hermitage of the Nuestra Senora, 262; allusions to, 269, 286, 289, 312.
Cormack, Mr. the merchant, i. 65, 95, 96.
Corn, mode of preserving, i. 194.
Corral at Seville described, i. 58.
Corunna lighthouse, i. 4.
Costume, Spanish, i. 110; ii. 167, 188.
———, female, in Morocco, i. 239.
———, Jewish, i. 250.
———, military, i. 262.
———, Moorish, ii. 134.
Country, wild, i. 99.
Crane, killed, ii. 9.
Crillon, Duke de, ii. 156, 157, 162.
Cruelty, atrocious, i. 228, 229.
Cueva del Gatto (the cat's cavern), ii. 189, 190.
Cus, province of, i. 376.
Custodia, ii. 303.
Customs, Jewish, i. 388, 411, 428; ii. 348, 377, 424.

D'Arcon, Monsieur, a French engineer, ii. 156.
Darby, Admiral, arrives at Gibraltar, ii. 154.
Dartmouth, Lord, i. 273.
Decapitation, common in Morocco, i. 160.
Decorum, Moorish, ii. 139.
Descent, precipitous, i. 122.
Deserters, Spanish, i. 161.
Devotion, Mahometan, ii. 97.
Diario de Sevilla, newspaper, i. 62.
Digby, Admiral, ii. 154.
Diligence, French, ii. 327, 331, 332.
———, Spanish, ii. 263, 264, 266, 268; its construction, 270, 273, 274, 275, 312, 313.
Dissenters in Morocco, i. 413.
Divine, a travelling one, ii. 180.
Divorces in Morocco, ii. 141.
Dogs of Barbary, i. 194.
Don, Sir George, i. 127, 132, 164, 257.
Dordogne, passage over, ii. 333.
Douar, Arab, ii. 13, 14, 17, 117, 121, 123.
—— of Mazora, ii. 35, 50, 53.
Douglas, Mr. the English consul-general, i. 288, 315.
Downie, Colonel, ii. 257, 259, 261, 262, 263, 269.
———, Sir John, ii. 257.
Drinkwater's History of the Siege of Gibraltar, ii. 147, 153.
Driving, Spanish, ii. 277.
Druidical and Celtic monuments, ii. 40.
Duguid, Mr. of Gibraltar, ii. 109, 164.
Duke of York steam-packet, i. 1.
Dupont, Gen. defeat of, ii. 269, 270.
Duquella, province of, i. 296, 373.
Dutch frigate, i. 304.

Earthenware of Fez, ii. 91.
Education, Jewish, ii. 352.
Ehrinhoff, Colonel, Swedish consul-general, i. 193; gardens of, at Tangier, 294.
Elephantiasis, symptoms of, i. 143, 144.
Eliott, General, governor of Gibraltar, ii. 153; bold manœuvre of, 155.
Ellis, Mr. consul-general at Tangier, i. 138, 148, 164, 288, 295;

letters of the sultan to, 315, 323; ii. 128, 144.
El Mahedy, opinion respecting, ii. 340.
———, scherif, defeated, ii. 379, 381.
El'Uted, ancient pillar so called, ii. 36; antiquity of the remains at, 44; allusion to, 93.
England, treaties between, and Morocco, i. 366.
English house at Tangier, i. 176, 177, 178.
Erefe, natives of, i. 404; ii. 377.
Escort, Moorish, i. 182, 189.
Escurial at Madrid, ii. 295, 296, 299, 300, 301, 302, 304, 305; holy relics of, 307.
Evening oration, hour of, i. 103; ii. 17.
Eye for an eye, i. 343.

Famine, dreadful, in Barbary, i. 209, 388.
Fast, Jewish, i. 424.
Favour, tokens of, ii. 111.
Ferdinand, King of Castile, ii. 149, 232, 233.
Ferries in Morocco, ii. 66, 96.
Festival, Jewish, at Tangier, i. 145.
———, Moorish, i. 133, 141, 170.
Fez, i. 151, 171, 180, 181, 200, 201, 208, 210, 212, 240, 244, 276, 277, 285, 289, 314, 316, 317, 321 323, 324, 337, 339, 347, 349, 358, 359, 360, 373, 378, 379, 401; ii. 5, 57, 58; silk manufactures of, 89; woollen hayks of, 90; earthenware of, 91; allusions to, 124, 125, 127, 131, 133, 135, 149, 338, 339, 369, 387, 397.
—, Old, surrender of, ii. 372.
Fiennes, Major, i. 272.
Finisterre, Cape, i. 4.
Fire-arms, remarks on their use, ii. 178.
Fischer's Picture of Valencia, ii. 174.
Flamingo, a bird, ii. 128; described, 129.
Fleet, Moorish, ii. 132.
Fontana d'Oro, at Madrid, ii. 311.
Forest scenery, Spanish, i. 117.
Fray, Mr. of Leicester, ii. 178.
Fresnillo, post-house of, ii. 315.
Freycinet, M. the consul-general, i. 304.
Funeral, Moorish, i. 279, 312.

Gallicia, mountains of, i. 4.
Game, collection of, i. 305.
———, plentiful in Barbary, ii. 30.
Games, Moorish, i. 276.
Garbia, district of, ii. 10, 12, 30, 31, 118.
Gargollo, Senor, of Cadiz, i. 20.
Gates of a town, causes of their being shut during the time of prayers, i. 343.
Gaucin, ascent to, ii. 169; grand view from, 170, 171, 176, 182.
Geber, the astronomer, i. 51.
Genoese merchant, defrauded, i. 332.
Gezula, province of, i. 375.
Ghabat Akloo, mountain, ii. 11, 14.
Gibraltar, i. 9; majestic appearance of, 121, 125; erroneous opinion respecting, 126; beauties of, 127; streets, ib.; library, 128; trade of, ib.; regulations at, 129; roads in the vicinity, 130; magnificent scenery, ib.; excavations, ib.; the rock gun, 131; intense heat at, 132; straits of, 136; imports from, to Tetuan, 214; departure from Tangier to, ii. 144, 145; bay of, 146; situation of, 147; sketch of the history of the fortress, 148; taken by the British, 150; siege of, 154; its failure, 161; distant view of, 171; fever at, 172; allusion to, 202.
Gibraltar merchant, incident that happened to one, i. 334.
Gift, precious, ii. 110.
Glutton, unrivalled, i. 417, 420.
Goatherd boy, i. 202.
Gordon, Mr. vineyard of, i. 68.
Government, arbitrary, i. 431.
Graham, Sir Thomas, ii. 324.
Granada, ii. 206, 207, 213, 214, 216, 217; approach to, 218; situation of the city, 220; the alhambra, 221; the Xeneralife, 222; palace of Charles I. at, 223; hotel at, 224, 225; siege of, 227, 228; estate of the Duke of Wellington near, ib.; Moorish remains at, 229; the Albayzin, 230; inhabitants, 231; climate of, 237; allusions to, 251, 256, 256, 259, 282.
Granaries, subterranean, i. 194.
Grapes, pressing of, i. 62.
Guadalete, river, i. 97, 98.
Guadalquivir, river, i. 40, 51, 60, 64; ii. 250, 251, 265, 266.
Guadarrama mountains, ii. 295, 296, 297, 298, 308, 313, 314, 315.
Guadiaro, river, ii. 168, 169, 170, 185, 186, 187, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195.
Guards, Moorish, their rapacity, i. 259.
Guarroman, town of, ii. 278.
Gudin, Viscount, i. 19.

Guide, Spanish, i. 95.
Guipuzcoa, province of, ii. 324.
Gum-cistus, ii. 168.
Guyland, a Moorish chieftain, i. 272.

Hadge Hamet Haardan, a Tangier Moor, i. 135, 278.
Hadji Talib Benzeleul, ii. 339.
Hail-storm, destructive, i. 379.
Halifax, druidical monuments near, ii. 42.
Hamet, Bashaw, i. 235, 302.
——— Sharkee, the interpreter, ii. 2, 5, 13; his illness, 25, 27.
Harache, Joseph, a Jew doctor, i. 384.
Hassan, Salvador, of Tetuan, i. 206, 213, 216, 233, 257, 259, 260, 264, 265.
Hats worn by female peasants, ii. 3.
Hay, Mr. Drummond, consul-general, i. 306.
Hayk, a species of garment, i. 241, 262, 276, 280, 314, 388; ii. 3, 6, 13, 59, 84, 90, 91, 124, 125, 133, 134, 256.
Hea, province of, i. 374.
Hemlock, a substitute for tobacco, i. 265.
Henna, a plant, i. 239.
Hermitages, Spanish, ii. 262.
Higgins, Mr. his work of the Celtic Druids, ii. 43.
Highland lad, transport, i. 285.
Hill, Mr. fate of, i. 285, 286.
Holge, passage over, ii. 119.
Hope, Sir John, ii. 328.
Horses killed at a bull-fight, 31.
Hospitality, African, i. 193.
Hotel at Granada, ii. 224.
Houses of Tangier, i. 140.
———, Spanish, described, i. 44; illuminated interiors of, 46.
Humboldt, the traveller, ii. 310, 315.
Hypocrites, saintly, ii. 168.

Innkeepers, Spanish, roguery of, i. 104.
Irish monk, i. 78.
Iron of Morocco, ii. 401.
Irun, town of, ii. 326, 327.

Jaen, kingdom of, ii. 266, 267.
Jahas el Rihan, or the Myrtle Plains, ii. 52.
Jewesses, beautiful, at Tangier, i. 146; their splendid dress, ib.; restraint of, 147; allusions to, 238, 239.
Jewish brandy, i. 412.
——— ceremonies, i. 362, 377, 388, 411, 424, 428.
——— charity, i. 426.
Jewish credulity, i. 340.
——— festival at Tangier, i. 145.
———, mountaineers, i. 251, 252, 253; their origin, 254.
——— quarters, ii. 105.
Jews of Barbary, i. 247, 248; utility of, 249; their costume, 250; their treatment by the Moors, 338.
——— of Tetuan, i. 246, 255; ii. 342.
Jibbel Habib, mountaineers of, ii. 26, 28, 121.
Jibbel Mousa, mountain of, ii. 146.
John de Guzman, Duke de Medina Sidonia, ii. 150.
John, Don, of Austria, ii. 236.
Joseph, King, ii. 188.
Juggler, death of one, i. 414.
Jugglers of Sus, i. 421.
Justice in Morocco, i. 423; ii. 337.
——— in Spain, i. 72.
Jusuf III., King of Granada, ii. 149.

Kador, a Moorish governor, ii. 94.
Kaid, his attentions, ii. 94.
Kaids, or governors, respect paid to, ii. 384.
Kanooar, mountain of, ii. 121.
Keppel, Major, his Travels, ii. 77.
Kirkpatrick, Mr. the Hanoverian consul-general, ii. 202, 205, 206.
Kitan, near Tetuan, sultan's gardens at, i. 233, 235.
Koran, extract from, ii. 140; precepts of, 337.
Kouskousou, a kind of fare, ii. 75, 77; its preparation, 78; merits of, 81; enormous dish of, 83, 87, 94, 98.
Kumrah, inquiry respecting, ii. 16.

La Carolina, settlement of, ii. 279, 283.
Ladies, Spanish, beauty of, i. 12, 14, 15; present at bull-fights, 36; curious custom of, 109; their influence, ii. 317.
Lady, Moorish, on horseback, ii. 125.
Laing, Major, his death, i. 148.
Lake near Vejer, i. 115, 116.
Lakes near Cape Spartel, ii. 128.
La Mancha, ii. 278; hero of, 279; plains of, 281, 284, 285; convents in, ib. 286, 287, 288, 289; inhabitants of, 290.
Landes, district of, ii. 329.
Langara, Don, the Spanish admiral, anecdote of, ii. 154.
La Porte, Mr. vice-consul of France, i. 200; his researches, 325.
La Puebla, town of, ii. 323.
Larache, i. 319, 324, 356, 372; ii.

26; approach to, 65, 67; description of the place, 67—70; ruinous state of, 71; view of the town, 72; fortifications of, 73; Austrians defeated at, ib.; population of, 74; Jewish families in, 75; governor of, 84; the Alcassaba, 85; gardens in the vicinity, 87; Moorish shops, 88; Jewish dealers of, 89; view of, 97; allusions to, 105, 115.
Law, Moorish, i. 332.
Leake, Sir John, ii. 151.
Leo Africanus, descriptions of, ii. 30.
Leon, the matador, i. 33, 37.
Lerma, town of, ii. 315.
Letter, Moorish, i. 365.
Levanter, or easterly wind, i. 132.
Lieven, Prince, i. 306.
Lisbon, city of, i. 5; aqueduct at, 6; its fine situation, ib.; allusion to, 130.
Lloyd, Mr. the celebrated English bear-hunter, ii. 16.
Los Varrios, village of, i. 122, 126.
Luccos, river, ii. 65, 66, 70, 73, 87, 92, 96, 97.

Madrid, ii. 258, 259, 262, 269, 271, 272, 273, 288, 291; approach to, 292; streets and buildings, 294; the royal palace, 295, 296, 297, 298; elevation of, 310; hotel at, 311; diligence from, to Bayonne, 312, 317, 318.
Madridejos, town of, ii. 290.
Mahomet, the prophet, i. 141.
Mahometan religion, observance of, i. 156; ii. 97, 140.
Malabat, Cape, excursion to, i. 303; ii. 4, 101.
Malaga, city of, ii. 196, 197, 200, 201; approach to, 202; its commercial situation, 203; convicts at, 204; robberies at, 205; antiquities in the neighbourhood, 206; departure from, 207, 208, 215, 225, 237.
Manzanares, town of, ii. 290.
Marharhar, river, ii. 10.
Maritornes of Ronda, ii. 183.
Mark, Mr. of Malaga, ii. 205, 206.
Marriages at Tangier, described, i. 165, 166, 312.
———, Spanish, i. 16.
Marteen, custom-house at, ii. 374.
Mass, celebration of, i. 49.
Matador, described, i. 34.
Matamores, or granaries, i. 194, 195.
Matra, Mr. late English consul-general, i. 291, 351, 352.
Mazora, douar of, ii. 35, 36, 47, 50.
Mecca, i. 137; pilgrimage to, 319.
Mechra el Hachef, river, ii. 28, 119, 123.
Medina Cieli, Duke of, i. 53.
Medina Sidonia, view of, i. 100; situation of the town, 101; church at, 102; evening oration, 103; people of, 105; allusion to, ii. 170.
Mediterranean, view of, ii. 210.
Mequinez, city of, i. 175, 191, 200, 227, 228, 244, 287, 323, 337, 350, 372; ii. 74, 133.
Merops, or bee-eater, ii. 209.
Meurice's Hotel, at Paris, ii. 334.
Miguel, Don, i. 7.
Military costume, Moorish, i. 262.
Minorca, governor of, ii. 152.
Miranda de Ebro, town of, ii. 322, 323.
Modesty, opposite notions of, i. 241.
Mogador, ii. 212.
Mohamed Ben Ali, tomb of, ii. 32.
Mohammed, Omemon, Bashaw of Tangier, i. 132, 151, 152, 316.
Mondejar, Marquis of, ii. 235.
Mondragon, ii. 324.
Monk, Irish, i. 78.
Monkeys at Gibraltar, i. 129.
Monks, Carthusian order of, i. 75; their mode of life, 76.
Montezuma, descendant of, ii. 205.
Monuments, ancient, ii. 40.
Moon, rising, effect of, i. 8.
Moor punished, i. 389.
Moorish artillery, i. 170.
——— brigs of war, ii. 129.
——— cavalry, exercise of, i. 142.
——— charity, i. 426.
——— custom, singular, i. 109.
——— females, i. 237; costume of, 239; their idea of modesty, 242.
——— festival, i. 133, 141.
——— fleet, ii. 132.
——— funerals, i. 279, 312.
——— games, i. 276.
——— justice, i. 423.
——— lady on horseback, ii. 125.
——— law, i. 332, 427.
——— letter, i. 365.
——— marriages, ii. 392.
——— remains at Granada, ii. 229.
——— repast, described, ii. 82.
——— sabbath, i. 212.
——— school, i. 314.
——— shops, at Larache, ii. 68.
——— sports, ii. 373.
——— superstition, i. 340.
——— suspicion, ii. 93.
——— villages, i. 184, 266; ii. 7, 55.

Moorish watch-towers, i. 100, 106.
——— wine, i. 264.
Moors, dealings with, i. 177; jealous of their women, ib.; their suspicions, 277, 317; their treatment of the Jews, 338; persons of, described, 133; costume of, 134; their complexion, 135; character of, ib. 136; their bigotry, 137; decorum of, 139; their wives, 140; divorces of, 141; polygamy, 142.
——— of Arzilla, ii. 112.
——— of Spain, i. 14, 208, 209.
Moreno, Admiral, fleet under, ii. 156.
Morescoes, or Moors, ii. 232; persecutions of, 233; revolt of, 234; defeated, 235, 236.
Morocco, renegadoes in, i. 162, 163; scarcity of wood in, 185; travelling in, 189; scenery of, 201, 202; Jews of, 248; agriculture in, 296, 400; danger of disguise in, 321; notes on, 331; ii. 337; provinces of, i. 344; scherifs of, 345; old line of the sultans of, 347; treaties between, and England, 366; revenue of, 395; productions of, 403; caravans of, 407; dissenters in, 413; robbery in, 414; snakes of, 414; scorpions, 415; arbitrary government of, 431; Arabs of, ii. 18; cities of, 30; ferries in, 66, 96; features of the coast, 100; Jews of, 350; prices of different articles in, 385; wild beasts of, 392.
——— Sultan of, i. 122, 161; his noble conduct, 164; expected at Tangier, 171, 180; character of, 223; despotism of, 224, 225; his gardens near Tetuan, 233, 234, 235; his visit to Tangier, 287, 390; letter to, 289; letters of, 315, 365; his consideration, 386; his journey from Fez, 387; his visit to Tetuan and Tangier, 390; body-guard of, ii. 124; his establishment, 385; his consideration, 387.
Mosque at Cordova, ii. 252.
——— at Tangier, i. 367.
Mosto, or grape-juice, i. 81, 82, 83, 84.
Mountain agriculture, ii. 173.
——— road, grand, ii. 171, 172.
——— scenery, i. 112, 115, 202.
——— stream, i. 197.
——— ventas, i. 117.
Mountaineers of Barbary, ii, 27.
Mount Washington, a villa, near Tangier, i. 290; road to, 291; view from, 292, 306.
Mouse of Barbary, ii. 32, 53.
Muedden, or crier, duties of, i. 156, 187; ii. 97.
Mules, Spanish, ii. 276.
Muleteers, party of, ii. 240.
Muley Absalom, sanctuary of, i. 195.
——— Hisham, rebellion of, 357.
——— Ishmael, reign of, i. 227, 228; cruelty of, 229, 230; numerous issue, 231; his policy, 232; his death, 233, 235, 288, 299, 300, 302, 317, 358, 361; ii. 134.
——— Mahomet, his death, i. 230; ii. 62.
——— Moluc, his death, ii. 63.
——— Said defeated, ii. 370.
——— Soliman, reign of, i. 191, 297, 318; ii. 338.
——— Soliman, Bashaw of Tangier, i. 394.
——— Yzied, the tyrant, i. 195, 255, 355.
——— Zedan, i. 346.
Murder, frequent in Andalusia, ii. 176.
Murillo, style of, i. 55, 56.
Myrtle Plains, appearance of, ii. 52.

Nautilus shell, ii. 99, 101; ingenuity of the animal, 102.
Navarino, battle of, i. 324; ii. 114.
Necklaces, Arab, ii. 49.
Negroland, expedition to, i. 369.
Newspaper, Lilliputian, i. 62.
Niebla, Count de, killed, ii. 149.
Night encampments, ii. 45, 121.
Night quarters, ii. 212.
Night scene in Barbary, ii. 6.
Nivelle, river, ii. 328.
Noble, Mr. i. 228, 229.
Nommade, tribes of Arabs, ii. 21.
Notes of Walter Price, Esq. i. 331; ii. 337.
Novena, or religious pageant, i. 43.
Nuns, cargo of, ii. 332.

Ocana, situation of, ii. 291.
Ogilby, John, Esq. his account of Tangier, i. 271, 272.
O'Lawlor, General, ii. 226.
Oldham, Mr. i. 24, 25.
Oleander, thickets of, i. 197.
Olga, venta of, i. 117.
Olive, Spanish, ii. 243, 244.
Olla, a Spanish dish, ii. 245; its ingredients, 246.
Ommon, late Bashaw at Tangier, i. 429.
Opera, at Cadiz, i. 22; at Seville, 56.
Oppression, system of, in Morocco, i. 225.

Ordinarios, or carriers, ii. 209.
Orleans, town of, ii. 334.
Ortegal, Cape, i. 4.
Otto of Roses, ii. 91.
Ouseley, Mr. Gore, i. 306.

Pageant, religious, at Seville, i. 43.
Palmeta, or wild palm-bush, i. 199; ii. 31, 168, 174.
Pampluna, fortress of, ii. 324.
Pantheon of the Escurial, ii. 305.
Paper Nautilus, description of, i. 286.
Paris, diligence to, ii. 331, 332; Meurice's hotel at, 334.
Pasqua, ceremony of, i. 364.
Pass, gloomy, ii. 210.
Passports in Spain, ii. 260, 268.
Patient, treatment of one, i. 384.
Paxareti wine, i. 85.
Peasants of Andalusia, costume of, i. 26.
——— of Barbary, ii. 3.
——— of Spain, ii. 173.
Pegge, Mr. ii. 41.
Pepys, diary of, i. 271.
Peterborough, Earl of, i. 271, 272.
Philip II. reign of, ii. 232, 233; arbitrary measures of, 234, 235, 236, 298; Escurial founded by, 308; his education, 309.
Philip, III. i. 209.
Piali Hamet, ii. 150.
Picadores, i. 27, 28; attacked by the bull, 30; accident of, 31—36.
Pillar, ancient, i. 324, 325, 326; ii. 34, 36, 38.
Pirates, tribute to, ii. 130.
Plants at Gibraltar, i. 129.
Plaza St. Antonio, at Cadiz, i. 13.
Ploughing, mode of, i. 303; ii. 173.
Poictiers, town of, ii. 332, 333.
Police, system of at Tangier, i. 156, 158.
Polygamy, opinions of, ii. 142, 143.
Pontius Pilate's House, i. 52.
Porchester, Lord, lines by, ii. 218.
Posada, or Spanish inn, i. 101, 102, 105, 123, 175; ii. 170, 182, 225, 229, 238, 244, 261, 264, 266, 267, 286, 297, 319, 323, 327.
Powder, bad, i. 170.
Presents, requisite in Morocco, i. 220, 221, 222; ii. 110.
Price, Mr. Vice Consul at Tetuan, i. 175, 213, 245, 246, 287, 288, 310, 314, 323; his notes on Morocco, 331; ii. 73.
Provisions, high price of, ii. 162.
Puerto de Santa Maria, i. 24, 37.
Puerto Lapiche, town of, ii. 290.
Pyrenees, aspect of, ii. 325, 326, 328.

Quarters, desolate, ii. 68.
———, Jewish, ii. 105.
Quixote, Don, scene of his exploits; ii. 280, 283, 290.

Rabat, carpets of, ii. 91; town of, 135.
Rabegiar, a Moorish brig, ii. 131.
Rain, prayers for, i. 390.
Rais Abderahman, Admiral, ii. 132.
Rapacity, Moorish, i. 249, 259.
Reding, General, ii. 269.
Reeve's Hotel, at Gibraltar, i. 126.
Refé, province of, i. 186, 208, 209, 254.
Reins and Delius, Messrs. ii. 206.
Rejoicings, public, ii. 378.
Remains, ancient, described, ii. 39.
Renegadoes of Morocco, ii. 162, 163.
Repast, Moorish, described, ii. 82.
Rhamadan, fast of, i. 378.
Ribera, or Espagnoletti, i. 56.
Rio del Castro, town of, ii. 241, 244, 249.
Rivers, passage over, ii. 123.
Roads, French, state of, ii. 332.
Robbers, Spanish, preparation for, ii. 178.
Robbery in Morocco, i. 414.
Rock gun, at Gibraltar, i. 131.
Roderic, king of the Goths, i. 97; killed, 98; ii. 148.
Roderigo Ponce de Leon, Marquis of Cadiz, ii. 139.
Rodney, Sir George, fleet under, ii. 153, 154.
Ronda, ii. 169, 171, 173, 181; view of, 182; maritornes of, 183; interesting situation of, 184; bridge of, 185; the Alameda, 186; inhabitants of, 187; environs of, 189, 195, 196, 197, 198; allusions to, 215, 225, 237.
Rooke, Sir George, takes Gibraltar, ii. 150.
Rowldrich, or Rolleric stones, ii. 42.
Royal Palace at Madrid, ii. 295.
Rudston, a monument, ii. 41.
Ruin, ancient, ii. 29.

Sabbath, Moorish, i. 212.
———, violation of, i. 106.
Sagarra, Don Joseph, Spanish work by, i. 371; ii. 337.
Sahel, or woody country, ii. 53.
Saint of Wazein, ii. 60.
St. George's Hall, at Gibraltar. i, 131.
St. Jean de Luz, ii. 327, 328.
St. Juan de Aznalfarache, convent of, i. 50.

St. Juan de Aznalfarache, village of, i. 60.
St. Lorenzo, the Spanish martyr, ii. 298, 299; church of, 300.
St. Lucar, town of, i. 24, 37; situation of, 39, 40, 80; ii. 252.
St. Mary's, town of, i. 24, 25; preparations for a bull-fight at, 26, 80.
St. Petri, castle of, i. 19, 21.
St. Roque, town of, i. 121, 202.
St. Vincent, Cape, i. 7.
Saints of Barbary, ii. 32; hereditary ones, 33.
Saints of Tangier, i. 153, 157, 175; tombs of, 181, 313, 418.
Salee, i. 372; rovers of, i. 348, 349; ii. 132.
Salinas, ii. 324.
Salutation, mode of, ii. 341.
Samosierra, village of, ii. 314.
Sanctuaries, Arab, ii. 51, 101.
Sangre azula, or blue blood, i. 71.
Santa Cecilia, ii. 266.
—— Cruz, town of, ii. 285.
—— Elena, ii. 283.
—— Fé, city of, ii. 227.
—— Maria, i. 40, 66.
Sausage, recommended, ii. 242, 243.
Scene, solitary, ii. 54.
Scheik, Moorish, ii. 59, 98.
Scheerif of Morocco, i. 345.
Scheerifs, Moorish, i. 421; ii. 68.
School, Moorish, i. 311.
Schousboe, M. the Danish Consul General, i. 294.
Scorpions of Morocco, i. 415.
Scrape, ingenious method of getting out of one, i. 369.
Sea-view, interesting, ii. 208.
Sebastian, Don, King of Portugal, i. 430; ii. 61; expedition of, 62; his death, 64.
Serjeant, English, fate of, i. 163, 164.
Serranos, or mountaineers, ii. 188.
Seville, i. 10; steam-boat to, 37; contrasted with Cadiz, 42; religious pageant at, 43; houses described, 44; excellent water of, 48; cathedral of, 49; public buildings of, 50; the Arab tower, 51; tobacco manufactory, 52; Pontius Pilate's house, ib.; walls of, 53; the Alameda at, 54; state of the fine arts at, 55; opera at, 56; the great Corral, 58; villas in the neighbourhood of, 61; the carcel militar, or prison, 62; allusions to, 229, 237, 244, 251, 252, 256, 261, 264, 271, 272, 273, 288.
Seville, Archbishop of, i. 63.
Shalloud, a Moor, punished, i. 389.
Shaw, Dr. animal described by, ii. 16, 17.
Sheep, of Morocco, i. 204.
Sherry wine, i. 81; dry and sweet, 85.
Shopkeepers, juvenile, ii. 343.
Sidi Absalom, a Moor, ii. 55.
Sidi Hadge Alarbe, ii. 61.
Sidi Hisa Benijlesen, tomb of, ii. 10.
Sidi Mahomed, i. 245, 296, 352; his death, 354.
——————, navy of, ii. 382.
—————— el Hadje, tomb of, i. 280.
—————— Ben Marzoug, ii. 104, 106; his person described, 109.
Sidi Omar, an Arab scheik, ii. 13.
Sierra Morena, ii. 243, 249, 262, 266, 268, 269, 270, 277, 278, 279; scenery of, 281, 283, 284, 289, 290, 312, 323.
Sierra Nevada, majestic view of, ii. 216, 217, 219, 239, 243, 249.
Sierra Ronda, range of, i. 40, 99, 102, 115, 119, 121, 122; ii. 172, 174; view of, 175, 176, 181, 184, 185, 188, 189, 195, 198, 209.
Signal-tower, at Cadiz, i. 18.
Silks, Moorish, ii. 89.
Simpson, Miss, ii. 61.
Simpson, Mr., villa of, i. 290.
Slave girl, a young one, i. 310.
Slaves, particulars relative to, i. 336.
Smith, Dr. T. i. 150.
Snakes, venomous, i. 414, 415.
Sok, or Market, i. 172, 302, 310.
Soldevilla, Senor, ii. 263.
Soldier, Spanish, destitute, i. 119.
Soldiery, wretched in Spain, i. 124.
Solomon, a Jewish attendant, i. 148.
Songs, Moorish, i. 409.
Sortie from Gibraltar, ii. 155.
Soto de Roma, estate of the Duke of Wellington, ii. 226, 228.
Soult, army under, ii. 282, 291.
Spain, danger of travelling in, i. 37, 66, 95; ii. 167, 177; justice in, i. 72; declares war with England in 1779, 152; aspect of the country, 168; murders common in, 176; present fallen condition of, 255.
Spaniards, degeneracy of, i. 15; ii. 255; their jealousy of the British, i. 125; their attempts to retake Gibraltar, ii. 151, 152; re-inforced by the French, 156, 161; their affinity to the Moors, 256.
Spanish bull-fights, i. 25, 29.
—— deserters, i. 161.
—— felucca, i. 134.
—— marriages, i. 16.

Spanish peasantry, habits of, ii. 173.
Spartel, Cape, excursion to, i. 281, 282, 283, 306; ii. 11, 101; lakes near, 128.
Sporting, near Tangier, i. 305; ii. 14, 128.
Stalker, Mrs. of Seville, i. 31, 46.
Steam navigation, i. 1.
——, tremendous power of, i. 3.
Stewart, Commodore, embassy of, i. 228, 232, 343, 349.
Streets, covered, i. 211.
Sugar, manufacture of, i. 337.
Sultana, a kind of cloak, i. 262; ii. 125, 256.
Sultans of Morocco, ancient line of, i. 347.
Superstition, Jewish, i. 388.
——, Moorish, i. 340.
Sus, province of, i. 374; jugglers from, 421.
——, natives of, ii. 377.
Susa, the alkaid, his adventures, i. 186, 193, 194, 325; n. 6.
Suspicion, Moorish, ii. 33.
Sweetmeats, Moorish, i. 413.

Talib, duties of, ii. 58, 341.
Tablet, i. 310, 316, 347, 407; ii. 174.
Tangier, i. 133, 371; passage from Gibraltar to, 134, 135; approach to, 137; streets of, 120; houses of, 140; ceremony of circumcision at, 141; dresses at, 143; Jewish festival at, 145; Alcassaba at, described, 149, 150; saints of, 153, 157; military patrol at, 155, 158; the mutedden, 156; laws of, 159; punishments, 160; exiles at, 164; marriage ceremonies at, 165, 312; sultan expected at, 171; soko, or market, 172; price of provisions at, 173; inn at, 175; English house at, 176; appearance of, 178; allusions to, 183, 200, 201, 203, 205, 211, 212, 237, 245, 257, 268; a colony under the Romans, 270; importance of, 271; governors of, 272; given up to the Moors, 273; climate of, 274; auctions at, 275; amusements at, 276; burial-grounds of, 279; account of the sultan's visit to, 287; environs of, 290; agriculture in the vicinity, 290; sporting near, 305; revenue of the mosque at, 367; Moorish families at, 368; ii. 62, 71, 88; allusions to, 7, 8, 9, 11, 25, 26, 28, 32, 95, 101, 111, 115, 121, 124, 126, 127, 135, 145; saints of, i. 418.
Tangier, Bashaw of, i. 132, 151, 152, 154, 192, 199, 394; ii. 110, 131.
——, Old, remains of, i. 303.
——, Roman bridge near, ii. 377.
Tarie, the Arab leader, i. 96, 97.
Tarif, an Arab chief, ii. 146.
Tarifa, i. 130, 137.
——, Marquis of, i. 52.
——, plains of, i. 117.
Tasserint, a root so called, ii. 86, 87.
Tattooing, custom of, i. 238.
Tea, an acceptable present in Morocco, i. 186, 216, 217, 218, 221; ii. 5, 57, 94.
Team, Spanish, ii. 276.
Tea party, a holy one, ii. 107.
—— pot's escape, ii, 109, 113.
——, exchange of, ii. 114.
Tedla, province of, i. 376.
Temacen, country of, i. 373.
Tendilla, Count, ravages of, ii. 210.
Tertulia, i. 21, 22.
Tessé, French marshal, loss of, ii. 151.
Tetuan, route to, i. 171, 175, 180, 182, 194, 197, 198, 199, 200, 202; view of, 203, 204; approach to, 205, 206; origin of the town, 207; inhabitants of, 209; borge or castle, 210; covered streets, 211; commerce of, 212, 213; imports, 214; exports, 215; the palace, 216; governor of, 217; sultan's garden near, 233, 234; fruits of, 235; Moorish females of, 237; Christians excluded from, 245; Jews of, 246, 255, 258; ii. 342, 287; allusions to, i. 371; ii. 310, 314, 315, 323, 325, 331, 334; ingratitude of a trader of, 332; importance of, 353; rent of houses at, 368; visit of the sultan to, 390; Moors of, 396; manufactures of, 402; allusions to, 71, 88, 131, 340; disturbed state of the neighbourhood of, 390; Englishmen allowed to ride through the town, 391.
Tiles, glazed, i. 213.
Timber, in Morocco, i. 166.
Timbuctoo, i. 139, 310, 316, 317, 321, 407.
Title-deeds, ancient, ii. 364.
Tiveot, Earl of, i. 272; killed, 273, 293.
Tobacco manufactory at Seville, i. 32.
Toboso, town of, i. 290.
Toledo, town of, ii. 324.
Tombs of saints, i. 281.
Tooth for a tooth, i. 343.
Tossing, punishment of, i. 161.
Tours, town of, ii. 333.

Towers, round, in Spain, ii. 168.
Tract, solitary, ii. 196.
Trafalgar, Cape, i. 19, 21.
Travelling, danger of, in Spain, i. 37, 66, 95; ii. 167, 213.
———, divine, ii. 180.
———, in Barbary, i. 180, 182, 183, 189, 193.
Trocha, pass of, i. 91, 118, 119; ascent of, 120, 123, 136, 202.
Troops, Moorish, pay of, i. 430.
———, Spanish, ii. 291; wretched condition of, i. 381.
Tumulus, extensive, ii. 37.
Tyer Symock, an extraordinary glutton, i. 417, 420.

Umbrella, use of, interdicted, i. 236.
Valdepenas wine, ii. 262, 265, 286, 287, 288.
Vasco Perez de Meyra, a Spanish governor, ii. 149.
Vejer, town of, i. 102, 106; its singular situation, 107, 108, 109; curious custom observed by females at, *ib.*; costume of the inhabitants, 110; mountain scenery of, 112; view of, 115, 284.
Velez, approach to, ii. 208, 209.
Venta, or public-house, i. 106, 107, 112.
———, Tahia, i. 116.
——— de Cardenas, ii. 283, 284.
———, suspicious, ii. 211.
Vergara, ii. 324.
Vespers, hour of, i. 55.
Vicario, venta of, ii. 200, 201.
Vigo Bay, i. 5.
Villadarias, marquis of, ii. 150, 151.
Villages, Moorish, i. 184, 286; ii. 7, 55.
Villas in Spain, i. 61, 73.
Vintage of Xeres, i. 68, 80.
Virgin, feast of, i. 25.
Vitoria, town of, ii. 323, 324.

Wad el Hhalou, ii. 117.
Wad el Rifé, river, ii. 117.
Wadras, mountains of, i. 199.
Wall, Mr., his hotel at Cadiz, i. 9.
Wallet, an empty one, i. 309.
Watch-towers, Moorish, i. 100, 106.
Water, excellent at Seville, i. 48.
Water-carrier, trade of, 47.
Waterton, Mr. ii. 16.
Wazein, saint of, ii. 60.
Weather, heat of in Spain, i. 11, 22, 46, 65, 132.
Webster, Mr. ii. 73.
Wedding procession, i. 166.
Wellington, Duke of, his estate near Granada, ii. 226, 228.
Wells, in Africa, i. 199.
Wheat of Barbary, i. 296; ii. 78.
William Henry, Prince (his present majesty), commencement of his naval career, ii. 153; anecdote of, 154.
Wind, easterly, unhealthy, i. 47.
Wine-doctor, i. 92.
Wine, fermentation of, i. 84; old, 88.
———, Moorish, i. 264.
Wives, Moorish, number of, i. 405; ii. 140.
———, Spanish, their failings, i. 18; their influence, ii. 317.
Wood, scarce in Morocco, i. 185.

Xeneralife, at Granada, ii. 222.
Xenil, stream of, ii. 218, 219, 220, 221, 228.
Xeres, i. 65, 66; view of, 67; vintage of, 68, 79; lower orders of, 70; Carthusian convent near, 73; wine trade of, 88; bodegas at, 89.

Yellow fever, at Gibraltar, ii. 172.
Yemas, or first-fruits, i. 83.

Zehra, palace of, at Cordova, ii. 264.
Zinat, a military post, i. 192, 193.
Zurbaran, works of, i. 79.

THE END.

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